

American Hero



Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf died Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012 in Tampa, Fla. He was 78.  
(AP Photo)

**LOLITA C. BALDOR**  
**RICHARD PYLE**  
**Associated Press**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Retired Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf, who topped an illustrious military career by commanding the U.S.-led international coalition that drove Saddam Hussein's forces out of Kuwait in 1991 but kept a low public profile in controversies over the second Gulf War against Iraq, died Thursday. He was 78.

Schwarzkopf died in Tampa, Florida, where he had lived in retirement, according to a U.S. official, who was not authorized to release the information publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

A much-decorated combat soldier in Vietnam, Schwarzkopf was known popularly as "Stormin' Norman" for a notoriously explosive temper.

Continued on Page 6



Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Ky. walks to the Senate floor on Capitol Hill in Washington to discuss the 'fiscal cliff', Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012.

(AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

Obama, congress leaders to make last-ditch ‘cliff’ effort

**JONATHAN WEISMAN**  
**© 2012 New York Times**  
**WASHINGTON** — President Barack Obama is expected to meet with congressional leaders Friday and House Republicans summoned lawmakers back for a Sunday session and one last-ditch effort to avert a fiscal

crisis brought on by automatic tax increases and spending cuts scheduled to hit next week. Republicans expressed a flicker of hope Thursday that a deal could still be reached to at least avert most of the tax increases Tuesday, to prevent a sudden cut in pay-

ments to medical providers treating Medicare patients and to extend expiring unemployment benefits. But both parties' leaders said time is running out. "Here we are, five days from the New Year, and we might finally start talking," said Sen. Mitch McConnell

of Kentucky, the Senate Republican leader. The overriding emotion Thursday, as senators convened for a rare session between Christmas and New Year's Day, appeared to be embarrassment.

Continued on Page 5



# KONG FUI

## SHOPPING CENTER

EASY ACCESS TO 1ST FLOOR & 2ND FLOOR  
LOCATED WITHIN WALKING  
DISTANCE OF THE HIGHRISE HOTELS

OPEN DAILY: 8 A.M. TO 10 P.M.  
SUNDAY: 9 A.M. TO 8 P.M.



PALM BEACH 17-A | NOORD | TEL: 586-9888 FAX: 586-9886 • [info@kongfui.com](mailto:info@kongfui.com)



# Winter blizzard wreaks havoc across US Northeast

**HOLLY RAMER**

**Associated Press**

**CONCORD, New Hampshire (AP)** — A winter storm

that has killed more than a dozen people across the eastern half of the United States plodded across the Northeast on Thursday, trapping jet planes in snow or mud and frustrating travelers still trying to return home after Christmas.

The storm, which was blamed for at least 16 deaths farther south and west, brought plenty of wind, rain and snow to the Northeast when it blew in Wednesday night. Lights generally remained on and cars mostly stayed on the road, unlike many harder-hit places including the southern state of Arkansas,



A snow removal truck clears a road, Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012 during the first major snowstorm of winter in the region.

(AP Photo/Graham Hughes)

where 200,000 homes and businesses lost power.

By afternoon, the precipitation had stopped in parts of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Massachusetts, though snow continued to fall in upstate New York and northern New England. Parts of snow-savvy New Hampshire expected as much as 18 inches (450 millimeters).

The Northeast's heaviest snowfall was expected to be in northern Pennsylvania, upstate New York and inland sections of several New England states before the storm heads into Canada on Friday, National Weather Service spokesman David Roth said.

While the East Coast's largest cities — New York, Philadelphia and Boston — saw mostly high winds and cold rain, other areas experienced a messy mix of rain and snow that slowed commuters and those still heading home from holiday trips. Some inbound flights were delayed in Philadelphia and New York's LaGuardia, but the weather wasn't leading to delays at other major East Coast airports.

On New York's Long Island, a Southwest Airlines jet bound for Tampa, Florida, veered off a taxiway and got stuck in mud Thursday morning. Officials said there were no injuries to the 129 passengers and five crew members. Though

the area received heavy rain overnight, Southwest spokesman Paul Flanagan said it wasn't clear whether that played a role.

In Pittsburgh, a flight that landed safely during the storm Wednesday night got stuck in several inches of snow on the tarmac about two hours. The American Airlines flight arrived between 8 and 9 p.m., but then ran over a snow patch and got stuck.

Earlier, the storm system spawned tornadoes on Christmas along the Gulf Coast, startling people like Bob and Sherry Sims of Mobile, Alabama, who had just finished dinner.

Deaths from wind-toppled trees also were reported in Texas and Louisiana, but car crashes caused most of the fatalities. Two people were killed in Kentucky crashes, a New York man was killed after his pickup truck skidded on an icy road in northwest Pennsylvania, and an Ohio teenager died after losing control of her car and smashing into an oncoming snowplow.

In Arkansas, where two people died in a head-on collision, some of those who lost electricity could be without it for as long as a week because of snapped poles and wires after ice and 10 inches (250 millimeters) of snow coated power lines, said the state's largest utility, Entergy Arkansas. □

1st phase  
80% SOLD

## Your Own Caribbean Private Sanctuary

# BLUE

## RESIDENCES

127 exclusive ocean view residences with 180° views of the Caribbean and just a few steps from the beach

**Pering** USA (+1 786) 629.9060  
 ARUBA (+297) 742.9703  
 VENEZUELA (+58212) 750.0161 - 750.0164

[www.bluearuba.com](http://www.bluearuba.com) / [sales@bluearuba.com](mailto:sales@bluearuba.com)

*Preferred*  
RESIDENCES

## President of Central African Republic seeks foreign help

**H. MARBOUA**

**KRISTA LARSON**

**Associated Press**

**BANGUI, Central African Republic (AP)** — The president

of Central African Republic on Thursday urgently called on France and other foreign powers to help his government fend off rebels who are quickly seizing territory and approaching this capital city, but French officials declined to offer any military assistance.

The developments suggest Central African Republic could be on the brink of

another violent change in government, something not new in the history of this resource-rich, yet deeply impoverished country. The current president, Francois Bozize, himself came to power nearly a decade ago in the wake of a rebellion.

Speaking to crowds in Bangui, a city of some 600,000, Bozize pleaded with foreign powers to do what they could. He pointed in particular to France, Central African Republic's former colonial ruler. □



# Time runs short to avert US longshoremen's strike

**DAVID S. MAYEROWITZ**  
**Associated Press**  
**NEW YORK (AP)** — In just a few days, a walkout by thousands of dock workers could bring commerce to a near standstill at every major U.S. port from Boston to Houston, potentially delivering a big blow to retailers and manufacturers still struggling to find their footing in a weak economy.

More than 14,000 longshoremen are threatening to go on strike Sunday — a wide-ranging work stoppage that would immediately close cargo ports on the East Coast and the Gulf of Mexico to container ships.

The 15 ports involved in the labor dispute move more than 100 million tons of goods each year, or about 40 percent of U.S. containerized cargo traffic. Losing them to a shutdown, even for a few days, could cost the economy billions of dollars.

"If the port shuts down, nothing moves in or out," said Jonathan Gold, vice president of supply chain and customs policy at the National Retail Federation. And when the workers do return, "it's going to take time to clear out that backlog, and we don't know how long that it's going to take."

Shipments of such varied products as flat-screen TVs,

sneakers and snow shovels would either sit idle at sea or get rerouted, at great time and expense. U.S. factories also rely on container ships for parts and raw materials, meaning supply lines for all sorts of products could be squeezed.

Joseph Ahlstrom, a professor at the State University of New York's Maritime College and a former cargo ship captain, called container ships the "lifeblood of the country."

"We don't fly in a lot of products. It's just too expensive," Ahlstrom said. "The bulk of the products we import come in inside containers."

The master contract between the International Longshoremen's Association and the U.S. Maritime Alliance, a group representing shipping lines, terminal operators and port associations, expired in September. The two sides agreed to extend it once already, for 90 days, but they have so far balked at extending it again when it expires at 12:01 a.m. local time Sunday.

The union said its members would agree to an extension only if the Maritime Alliance dropped a proposal to freeze the royalties workers get for every container they unload. The Alliance has argued that the longshoremen, who it said earn an average \$124,138 per



**A freight container, right, is lowered onto a tractor trailer by a container crane at the Port of Boston in Boston. The crane and a reach stacker, left, are operated by longshoremen at the port. The longshoremen's union may strike if they are unable to reach an agreement on their contract, which expires Dec. 29, 2012. A walkout by dock workers represented by the International Longshoremen's Association would bring commerce to a near halt at ports from Boston to Houston.**

(AP Photo/Steven Senne)

year in wages and benefits, are compensated well enough already.

Federal mediators have been trying to push negotiations along, but there has been no word from either side on the progress of the talks since Dec. 24. As recently as Dec. 19, the president of the longshoremen, Harold Daggett, said the talks weren't going well and that a strike was expected.

The work stoppage would not be absolute. Longshoremen would continue to handle military cargo, mail, passenger ships, non-containerized items like automobiles, and perishable commodities, like fresh food.

Yet the economic damage could still be severe. □

## Hillary Rodham Clinton to return to work next week

**MATTHEW LEE**  
**Associated Press**  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton is expected to return to work next week, almost three weeks after being sidelined by a concussion. Clinton spokesman Philippe Reines says Clinton continues to recuperate at home and will resume her office schedule next week. He says Clinton had no schedule this week because of a long-

planned holiday.

Aides and doctors say Clinton contracted a stomach virus in early December and became dehydrated, then fainted, fell and hit her head. She was diagnosed with a concussion on Dec. 13 and hasn't been seen in public since. Clinton's illness led her to cancel an overseas trip and scheduled testimony before Congress about the deadly attack on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi, Libya. □



## CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR WITH US!

DECEMBER 31

Join us as we say **GOODBYE TO 2012** and **WELCOME 2013** with an amazing night of

# \$1,500 IN CASH

**PRIZES, LIVE MUSIC** from 9pm - 1am and **GREAT SURPRISES!**

**SLOT TOURNAMENT • 2PM • \$5 BUY-IN**

All 10 finalists will receive a prize.

**BLACKJACK TOURNAMENT • 5PM • \$5 BUY-IN**

All 7 finalists will receive a prize.

Plus, play slot machines & table games with your Trop Advantage® card for a chance to **WIN FANTASTIC PRIZES!**

**TROP**  
**CLUB & CASINO**

A TROPICANA ENTERTAINMENT CASINO | TROPICANACASINOS.COM

Management reserves the right to change or cancel this promotion at their discretion. Must be 18 years of age or older. Must be a member of the Trop Advantage players club to participate.



# Necropsy, beach burial for Breezy Point whale

© 2012 New York Times

By SARAH MASLIN NIR

**NEW YORK** — On the wind-swept beach at Breezy Point on Thursday afternoon, the researcher cut a small cube out of the side of the giant whale, deposited the morsel in a vial of formaldehyde and screwed the cap shut. It was a messy job.

"The whale is still full of blood," the researcher, Julika Wocial, explained, "even though it's dead."

What began as a post-Christmas drama — the sighting of an endangered finback whale, breathing, just barely, as it floundered in the surf of Rockaway Inlet in Queens on Wednesday — became a grim procedural march after the mammal died overnight.

As the dead leviathan lay among the waves, Thursday became a day to tackle logistical head-



**A 60-foot fin whale, washed up on the Jamaica Bay beach at Breezy Point, in the Queens borough of New York, Dec. 26, 2012. The whale died December 27, 2012.**

(Chang W. Lee/The New York Times)

aches, including locating the right knives to fillet it for science and tracking down machinery heavy-duty enough to tow the beast, estimated to weigh 30 tons,

to its grave site in the dunes nearby.

The animal showed up on the beach emaciated; at 60 feet long, it should have weighed around 60 tons,

said Robert DiGiovanni Jr., executive director of the Riverhead Foundation on Long Island, the officially designated marine-mammal rescue group for the re-

gion. In death on Thursday, the whale's spinal column could be seen under taut gray skin. "It was clearly sick for a very long time," DiGiovanni said.

The possible causes of the whale's death are many, said Allison McHale, a spokeswoman for the National Marine Fisheries Service. It could have contracted any number of viral or bacterial diseases. It could have been struck by a ship — though no serious injuries were visible on the parts of the whale that could be inspected, there could be injuries on the parts of the whale that were hidden from view, or the animal could have been mortally injured long enough ago that no injuries were visible.

Though the whale, whose age and sex were not yet known, would be small for an adult finback. □



*T*USCANY *R*ESIDENCE ARUBA  
luxury living on the island of Aruba

Call 586 0135 for a  
**FREE PICK-UP**

Visit our model home at Saliña Serca 197, Noord  
[www.tuscanyresidencearuba.com](http://www.tuscanyresidencearuba.com)  
Choose from stylish condominiums and interconnected Villas



## Here's where Congress did OK in the year 2012

**Joshua Green**  
**The Boston Globe**

The holidays are an occasion to step back from the bustle of daily life and reflect on the year just passed. It's a time when we're supposed to look for the good in everyone, even the least deserving. Which brings us to Congress, an institution that doesn't elicit many warm feelings, no matter how much eggnog you've consumed.

Despite all the conflict and strife, there were some important bipartisan congressional accomplishments this year, which were overlooked precisely because they lacked drama.

So in the spirit of the season, here are a few of them.

Two years ago, a pipeline explosion ripped through a suburban neighborhood in San Bruno, California, killing eight people, part of a wave of oil and gas spills across the country. In January, both parties cooperated to pass a pipeline safety bill that addresses the most egregious shortcomings.

Shockingly, the San Bruno disaster took so long to contain because nobody could manage to shut down the pipeline. The new law requires remote shut-off valves. Explosions were common because pipelines like the one in San Bruno frequently operated at the wrong pressure. So pipelines will be tested to ensure they're within a maximum operating pressure established under the law.

Over the summer, while most health care news focused on the Supreme Court's controversial Obamacare decision, Congress quietly passed a series of measures to create new cancer treatments and lower drug prices. Children with cancer have limited treatment options because adult drugs are often too powerful, and drug makers don't see profit potential in oncological drugs for children; the Food and Drug Administration has approved just one childhood cancer drug in the last 20 years, compared to 50 for adults. The Creating Hope Act, which became law in July, addresses this problem by allowing companies to expedite the regulatory review process of more profit-

able drugs if they also develop treatments for pediatric cancers and other rare diseases. There's good reason to think that approach will work. The Orphan Drug Act, a 1983 law built on similar regulatory and marketing incentives, has led to treatments for hundreds of rare diseases like Tourette's Syndrome.

Drug shortages are another chronic problem. According to the FDA, they have tripled since 2005 and currently exist for more than 100 drugs. In July, both parties, backed by the pharmaceutical industry, agreed to a new Generic Drug User Fee Act that will provide funding to speed up the approval process and should reduce the number of shortages. And because 80 percent of drugs are generics and the new law will bring more of them onto the market, drug prices should fall.

In the fall, Congress passed the US Safe Web Act, which gives law enforcement officials powerful new tools to crack down on Internet fraud and spammers. The fact that most online fraud and spam originate overseas has been a major obstacle, since US law largely forbids sharing information with foreign law-enforcement agencies. A subpoena that identified the bad guys wasn't much use if they were located in another country. The new law grants the Federal Trade Commission broad new authority to share intelligence with foreign law-enforcement officials. On a bipartisan basis, Congress also improved child-safety seats; made it harder to import defective auto parts from overseas; imposed strong new penalties for odometer fraud (a big problem after Hurricane Katrina); and created new whistleblower protections. None of this is likely to change people's opinion of Congress -- and certainly not if partisan gridlock leads to fiscal-cliff chaos. But these examples might provide some basis for believing that all hope is not lost. After all, even Scrooge required the ministrations of a team of high-powered lobbyists -- the Ghosts of Christmas Past, Present, and Future -- before he was persuaded to change his ways. □

## Obama, congress leaders to make last-ditch 'cliff' effort



**President Barack Obama walks on the South Lawn at the White House in Washington, Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012, as he returns early from his Hawaii vacation for meetings on the fiscal cliff.**

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)

### Continued from front

The continuing impasse "demonstrates a tremendous lack of courage here in Washington to address the issues that need to be addressed -- at every level," said Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn. Lawmakers and aides from both parties cautioned that the burst of activity could be more about making sure the other side gets the blame than any real search for a resolution before the Jan. 1 deadline. Under Senate rules, no deal could run the gantlet of procedural hurdles in time for a final vote before deadline without all the senators agreeing not to slow progress.

"I have to be very honest," Sen. Harry Reid of Nevada, the majority leader, said Thursday. "I don't know timewise how it can happen now." White House officials continued to put the onus on Republicans to clear a procedural path to a quick vote on a negotiated deal. "The only way America goes over the cliff is if the Republican leaders in the House and the Senate decide to push us by blocking passage of bills to extend tax cuts or the middle class," said Dan Pfeiffer, the White House communications director. "It's a question of their willingness

to put country before party."

Republicans said there was nothing preventing Reid from putting formal legislation on the Senate floor, and to date, no such bill has been written.

But the contours of a fall-back deal did come into view Thursday, even as the will to achieve it lagged behind. Republicans involved in the talks said both sides would probably be able to agree to extend expiring Bush-era tax cuts up to some income threshold higher than Obama's \$250,000 cutoff but lower than the \$1 million sought by the House speaker, John A. Boehner. □

## Enjoy our much celebrated 3-Course Dinner Special!

### Appetizer

- Fish Soup
- Onion Soup
- Conch Fritters
- Escargot
- Salad

### Entrée

- **Fresh Catch of the Day**  
prepared by our local chef just the way you like it.
- **Jumbo Shrimp** from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine.
- **Filet Mignon\*** 8 oz. US Tenderloin
- **Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast**

### Dessert

- Chocolate or Banana Cake
- Ice Cream
- Coffee / Tea

**3-course dinner**  
**\$25.95**  
**per person**

This special cannot be used with any other promotions, vouchers or certificates.



Restaurant  
**Driftwood**  
Authentic Aruban Seafood

**25th ANNIVERSARY**

Open daily from 5:00pm - 10:30pm (closed on Sundays)  
For reservations call: 583-2515 - Klipstraat 12, Downtown.  
www.driftwoodaruba.com • driftwood@setarnet.aw





# Sawasdee Thai

**RESTAURANT**

Palm Beach 186, next to Wendy's  
Phone 586-8071 • info@sawasdee-aruba.com



## Everything made fresh to order!

- **Steak -**
- **Seafood**
- **Curries**
- **Vegetarian**

**Delicious Rice Table for two**




**Open Monday - Saturday from 5pm - 10:30pm • Sunday CLOSED!**

## Retired Gen. "Stormin' Norman" Schwarzkopf dead at 78

Continued from front

He served in his last military assignment in Tampa as commander-in-chief of U.S. Central Command, the headquarters responsible for U.S. military and security concerns in nearly 20 countries from the eastern Mediterranean and Africa to Pakistan.

Schwarzkopf became "CINC-Centcom" in 1988 and when Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait three years later to punish it for allegedly stealing Iraqi oil reserves, he commanded Operation Desert Storm, the coalition of some 30 countries organized by then-President George H.W. Bush that succeeded in driving the Iraqis out.

At the peak of his postwar national celebrity, Schwarzkopf — a self-proclaimed political independent — rejected suggestions that he run for office, and remained far more private than other generals, although he did serve briefly as a military commentator for NBC.

While focused primarily in his later years on charitable enterprises, he campaigned for President George W. Bush in 2000 but was ambivalent about the 2003 invasion of Iraq, saying he doubted victory would be as easy as the White House and Pentagon predicted. In early 2003 he told the Washington Post the outcome was an unknown:

"What is postwar Iraq going to look like, with the Kurds and the Sunnis and the Shiites? That's a huge

Colin Powell had given the United Nations powerful evidence of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.



In this June 8, 1991 file photo, Gen. Norman Schwarzkopf and President George Bush watch the National Victory Parade in Washington. Schwarzkopf died Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012 in Tampa, Fla. He was 78.

(AP Photo/Ron Edmonds)

question, to my mind. It really should be part of the overall campaign plan," he said.

Initially Schwarzkopf had endorsed the invasion, saying he was convinced that former Secretary of State

After that proved false, he said decisions to go to war should depend on what U.N. weapons inspectors found.

He seldom spoke up during the conflict, but in late 2004, he sharply criticized

then-Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and the Pentagon for mistakes that included inadequate training for Army reservists sent to Iraq and for erroneous judgments about Iraq.

"In the final analysis I think we are behind schedule. ... I don't think we counted on it turning into jihad (holy war)," he said in an NBC interview.

While many career officers left military service embittered by Vietnam, Schwarzkopf was among those who opted to stay and help rebuild the tattered Army into a potent, modernized all-volunteer force. After Saddam invaded Kuwait in August 1990, Schwarzkopf played a key diplomatic role by helping to persuade Saudi Arabia's King Fahd to allow U.S. and other foreign troops to deploy on Saudi territory as a staging area for the war to come.

On Jan. 17, 1991, a five-month buildup called Desert Shield became Operation Desert Storm as allied aircraft attacked Iraqi bases and Baghdad government facilities. □

### Chief of staff:

## Bush getting excellent treatment

**MICHAEL GRACZYK**  
**Associated Press**

**HOUSTON (AP)** — Former President George H.W. Bush, who has been hospitalized for more than a month, is getting excellent medical treatment and would advise people to "put the harps back in the closet," his longtime Houston chief of staff said Thursday evening.

But Jean Becker also pointed out in her statement that the 88-year-old Bush is sick and likely will be in the hospital for a while after a

"terrible case of bronchitis which then triggered a series of complications."

Bush, the oldest living former president, has been in intensive care since Sunday. He was admitted to Methodist Hospital in Houston on Nov. 23 for treatment of what his spokesman Jim McGrath described as a "stubborn" cough. He had spent about a week there earlier in November for treatment of the same condition.

Becker said "most of the civilized world" contacted

her Wednesday after disclosures Bush had been placed in the intensive care unit after physicians were having difficulty bringing a fever under control.

"Someday President George H.W. Bush might realize how beloved he is, but of course one of the reasons why he is so beloved is because he has no idea," Becker said in the at-times lighthearted statement that made multiple references to jokes and the former president's sense of humor. □



**PALM BEACH #33-A WWW.WACKYWAHOOS.COM**

**STEAK, SEAFOOD, B.B.Q. & FUN!**

Ex-Hadicurari BBQ & Grill with the same owner's. We do our own daily fishing so we serve the freshest seafood on the Island.

**Very reasonable price, exciting menu and  
NO SERVICE CHARGE**

**Dinner from 5:30 - 10:00**  
Monday - Saturday




**FRESH CATCH & SEAFOOD**  
*We are located close to the High-rise hotel's at walking distance.*

**RESERVATION REQUIRED**


**TEL: 586-7333**







# OCEAN X ARUBA



**The Morning Cruise the Different Island Cruise**  
 2 hours + refreshments, Departure 9:30 till 11:30 am  
 \* See the beautiful South part of the Island  
 \* Where no other boats go.  
 \* Experience an Xciting, Xhilarating on of a kind Cruise!! and you learn something about the Island @ the same time!

\$55

**The Afternoon Cruise 30 min departure 1:00pm or 2:00pm**  
 \* We take you to the northern tip of Aruba, where the waves are high  
 \* The Worlds nr 2 Beach and other Beaches  
 \* One of a kind High Speed Cruise of the North West side of the Island & you learn something about the Island @ the same time!

\$35

**Private cruises Available**

CALL 5614118

OR  
 OCEANXARUBA@HOTMAIL.COM  
 A great time for the whole family

Save \$10 per couple for the morning cruise or save \$5 per couple for the afternoon cruise

Departure from MooMba Beach. 15 min prior right side of the pier. Guests who are staying at Palm Beach pick-up will be on the beach in front of the hotel.

# US retailers taking risks with same-day shipping

STEPHANIE CLIFFORD  
 CLAIRE CAIN MILLER  
 © 2012 New York Times

Ivy Wu did not immediately need the navy lace cocktail dress she ordered the other day. But when a representative from Shoptiques, an e-commerce site, arrived at her Midtown office with the dress only hours after Wu, 26, had placed her order, "I was really impressed that it was here," she said.

This holiday season, same-day shipping has replaced free shipping as the new must-have promotion. It's logistically complicated and money-losing – and may not even be a service that consumers want or need, analysts say. But retailers from Wal-Mart to small shops like Shoptiques are willing to take the risk. Even the Postal Service has introduced a same-day option for retailers. And the reason is simple: fear of Amazon.com.

Amazon, the world's biggest online retailer, has hinted that it will expand its same-day shipping service, giving customers the immediate gratification that has been the biggest advantage of brick-and-mortar stores.

For small outfits like Shop-



**Arianna Simpson of Shoptiques, a retail website, makes a same-day delivery to an office building in the Manhattan borough of New York. Competition from Amazon.com has pushed a variety of stores to embrace same-day shipping as the new must-have promotion despite tricky logistics and expense.**

(Richard Perry/The New York Times)

tiques, it is not an easy proposition. The courier who showed up at Wu's office was the company's head of boutique operations, who has put aside her regular job this holiday season to make deliveries by hand. Bigger retailers, like Toys "R" Us, Macy's and Target, have worked with eBay to deliver items the same day, as have other

old-line stores. Google has begun testing a local delivery service with several chains. "There's lots going on in this space, and it's all driven by Amazon," said Tom Allason, founder and chief executive of Shutl, a British same-day delivery service that will expand to the United States next year. "It's not really being driven by con-

sumers at the moment." The same-day delivery idea was a spectacular failure during the dot-com boom. Companies like Kozmo.com and Webvan went under because the services simply cost too much to be profitable. Amazon has offered same-day shipping since 2009, but with limits – only in big cities near Amazon warehouses on certain

items ordered in the morning.

The geographical limits exist because Amazon had built warehouses far from major cities to avoid charging sales tax in certain states. But it has now given in on the sales tax fight, and in return, is erecting warehouses near cities like San Francisco, which analysts say is paving the way for faster, more widespread same-day delivery and spurring competitors.

"It's the old idiom, 'time is money,'" said Lina Shustarovich, an eBay spokeswoman. "How much time are you saving by not going to the store? People want it now, they want it fast."

Wal-Mart, which is the nation's biggest retailer but sells just a fraction of what Amazon does online, is testing same-day shipping during the holiday season in five markets. It gives shoppers a four-hour delivery window and charges \$10. The idea is "to give customers convenience, by way of combining our online shopping with the local presence of stores," said Amy Lester, a Wal-Mart spokeswoman for global commerce. □

## AT LAST, THE SEQUEL IS HERE!

Under a Blue Flag, the Much-Anticipated Sequel to Aruba's #1 Bestseller, An Island Away  
 ON SALE NOW IN ARUBA AT MOST HOTEL GIFT SHOPS



www.facebook.com/DanielPutkowski • DANIELPUTKOWSKI.com



PRAISE FOR AN ISLAND AWAY  
 ★★★★★  
 "INSIGHTFUL TALE. GREAT BEACH READ!"





# JOLLY PIRATES \$10 Off

**SAIL, SNORKEL, SWIM & SWING!**  
**DAILY 9:30am-1:30pm \$57pp**  
**Visit 3 Great sites with BBQ,**  
**Open Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!**

**AFTERNOON SNORKEL**  
**DAILY 2:30-5:30pm \$38pp**  
**Shorter version with Open**  
**Bar, Gear & Ropeswing!**

**\* SUNSET SAIL**  
**Mon & Fri 5-7pm \$30pp**  
**Open Bar included**  
**& Ropeswing!**

★ additional days upon request/seasonal

Tickets available at Jolly Pirates Shop at MooMba Beach. Boarding at MooMba Beach- by the high rise hotels between Holiday Inn and Marriott Resorts. Offer not valid in combination with other discount offers. Valid for direct telephone reservations **586 8107/592 7858**  
**ONLY - Present coupon at boarding**

**Save \$10 per couple/per coupon for morning cruise**  
**Save \$5 per couple/per coupon for afternoon cruise**

## U.N. envoy calls for transitional government in Syria

KAREEM FAHIM  
 ELLEN BARRY

© 2012 New York Times

BEIRUT – Lakhdar Brahimi, the international envoy on a mission to Damascus seeking an end to the escalating civil conflict in Syria, said Thursday that a transitional government with full executive authority should be established, perhaps within months, and should rule the country until new elections could be held. Brahimi did not say who would serve in such a government, and he offered no details about the role that Syria's president, Bashar Assad, would play – if any – during a transitional period. But his comments suggested that if Assad did remain in the country, he would retain none of his authority. "All the powers of government should be with this government," Brahimi said in reference to the proposed transitional authority. The envoy's comments to reporters in Damascus were

his most detailed since traveling to Syria on Sunday, where he met with Assad and Syrian opposition members in an effort to revive hopes of a political solution to the nearly

pay if the envoy's efforts failed, there was no immediate sign of a new diplomatic formula that would be acceptable to both the government and its opponents.



People wait in long lines to obtain bread in Aleppo, Syria. Now in its sixth month, the battle for Aleppo has become the contest for Syria in a microcosm, exposing the weakness of both sides, while highlighting anew the perils and costs of the country's bitter civil war. (Tyler Hicks/The New York Times)

two-year-old crisis. But, even as Brahimi and other international diplomats warned Thursday of the high cost Syrians would

"The situation is bad and worsening. The Syrian people are suffering unbearably," Brahimi said. "We do not speak in a vacuum

about theoretical things." Over the past month, Brahimi, as the special Syria representative from the United Nations and Arab League, has consulted extensively with the United States and Russia in hopes of fulfilling an accord reached in Geneva this summer calling for dialogue between Syria's government and the opposition.

As a Syrian government delegation met with Russia's top diplomats in Moscow on Thursday, a spokesman for the Russian Foreign Ministry, Alexandr K. Lukashevich, said there was no specific plan under discussion.

Russia, a key ally of the government in Damascus, has long pointed to the Geneva agreement, which calls for the creation of a transitional government and talks between the antagonists as the only acceptable basis for resolving conflict. However, the agreement does not address the question of Assad's fate – a key problem, since many in the opposition say he must step down as a precondition for talks.

In Damascus on Thursday, Brahimi also denied that he had proposed a spe-

cific plan, as many opposition members had asserted in recent days. And he said there was no agreement between the United States and Russia that he was pressing Assad to accept.

"I wish there was a U.S.-Russia proposal for me to sell," he said, adding: "I did not come here to sell."

The envoy said the Geneva framework "includes elements that are sufficient for a plan to end the crisis in the next few coming months," mentioning elements that included a peacekeeping force to monitor a ceasefire, and the establishment of a transitional government. And he said the transition "should not be allowed to lead to the collapse of the state and its institutions."

Brahimi's comments were met with pessimism by some opposition members, who have long said that any arrangement that left Assad in the country was unacceptable.

They have also called for the dismantling of state institutions tied to the government's repression, especially the security and intelligence services.

As insurgent groups make gains against the Syrian military, the political opposition has shown even less willingness to compromise. □



**PAGARA DANDE**  
**BINGO**  
**SUNDAY 30<sup>TH</sup>, 2012**  
**4PM \$10**  
**DOUBLE POWER-BALL**  
**PRO:51 -\$2000-52 \$1000 53-\$200**

**BENLO CIGARS**

Import & Export • We ship all over the world • Tel.: 5863555  
 Located in the Arowak Garden, next to Salt & Pepper,  
 Paparazzi and Tango Restaurant.

We are specialized in premium Cuban Cigars.  
 Opening hours: Mon. - Sat. 8:30am - 11:00pm  
 Sunday 9:00am - 11:00pm

Depending on purchase, we have discounts starting from 5% up to 20%.  
 With purchase of \$20 or more 1 FREE CIGAR

Bring this coupon for your free Cuban Cigar!



**Dior GUERLAIN CLARINS LANCÔME**

**Maggie's**  
Perfumes & Cosmetics  
Your Beauty Emporium Since 1955

**DUTY AND TAX FREE**

**20% - 40% Saving vs. US Retail**

**Marriott's Ocean Club**  
L.G. Smith Blvd. #99  
☎ 586-6506

**Paseo Herencia Mall**  
J.E. Irausquin Blvd. #382-A  
☎ 586-2113

**Main Street**  
Caya G.F. Betico Croes #59  
☎ 582-2113

**San Nicolas**  
Bernardstraat #101  
☎ 584-1400

# Egypt's opposition leaders under investigation

**SARAH EL DEEB**  
**Associated Press**

**CAIRO (AP)** — Egypt's chief prosecutor ordered an investigation on Thursday into allegations that opposition leaders committed treason by inciting supporters to overthrow Islamist President Mohammed Morsi. The probe by a Morsi-appointed prosecutor was launched a day after the president called for a dialogue with the opposition to heal rifts opened in the bitter fight over an Islamist-drafted constitution just approved in a referendum. The opposition decried the investigation as a throwback to Hosni Mubarak's regime, when the law was used to smear and silence opponents. The probe was almost certain to sour the already tense political atmosphere in the country. The allegations were made initially in a complaint by at least two lawyers sent to the chief prosecutor earlier this month. They targeted opposition leaders Mohammed ElBaradei, a Nobel Peace laureate and former head of the U.N. nuclear agency, former Foreign Minister Amr Moussa, and Hamdeen Sabahi, both Moussa and

Sabahi were presidential candidates who competed against Morsi in the last election. There was no immediate comment by any of the three opposition leaders

Mubarak jailed his opponents, including liberals and Islamists. International rights groups said their trials did not meet basic standards of fairness. ElBaradei was a leading

dent, asked the opposition on Wednesday to join a national dialogue to heal rifts and move on after a month of huge street protests against him and the constitution drafted by his

gan after Morsi's Nov. 22 decrees that gave him and the assembly writing the constitution immunity from judicial oversight. That allowed his Islamist allies on the assembly to hurriedly rush through the charter before an expected court ruling dissolving the panel. After the decrees, the opposition accused Morsi of amassing too much power in his hands. They said the constitution was drafted without the participation of liberal, minority Christian and women members of the assembly, who walked out in protest at the last minute.

Even though the constitution passed in a referendum, the opposition has vowed to keep fighting it. They say it enshrines Islamic law in Egypt, undermines rights of minorities and women, and restricts freedoms. Morsi and Brotherhood officials accused the opposition of working to undermine the president's legitimacy, and accused former regime officials of working to topple him. □



Photos show from left, opposition leaders, Mohammed ElBaradei, Nobel Prize laureate and former head of the U.N. nuclear agency, Amr Moussa, former foreign minister, and Hamdeen Sabahi, a former presidential candidate in Egypt. (AP Photo/ Armangue; Hamra; Nasser)

named but the opposition dismissed the allegations. Emad Abu Ghazi, secretary-general of the opposition party ElBaradei heads, said the investigation was "an indication of a tendency toward a police state and the attempt to eliminate political opponents." He said the ousted Mubarak regime dealt with the opposition in the same way.

figure behind the uprising against Mubarak and at one point, he was allied with the Brotherhood against the old regime. The investigation does not necessarily mean charges will be filed against the leaders. But it is unusual for state prosecutors to investigate such broad charges against high-profile figures. Morsi, Egypt's first democratically elected presi-

allies. Some of the protests erupted into deadly violence. On Dec. 5, anti-Morsi demonstrators staging a sit-in outside the presidential palace in Cairo were attacked by Morsi supporters. Fierce clashes ensued that left 10 people dead. The wave of protests be-

## German FM: worst of EU crisis over

**BERLIN (AP)** — Germany's finance minister says the worst of euro area's debt crisis appears to be over after three years of worries over Greece and other members of the group of 17 European Union countries that use the single currency. Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble was quoted Thursday as telling the Bild newspaper: "I think we have the worst behind us." Schaeuble says Greece and others have recognized that they can only overcome



German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaeuble, attends a hearing at the European Parliament in Brussels. (AP Photo/Yves Logghe)

the crisis by implementing reforms and that the Greek government — which has received two bailouts — "knows that it cannot financially overburden the other euro states". Some in Germany have expressed concern about the economy of neighboring France. But Schaeuble says the government there "knows very well that every country must constantly conduct reforms to remain competitive." □

**Gasparito**  
RESTAURANT - ART GALLERY

**Authentic Aruban Cuisine...**

Valid only for December 2012  
Bring this Coupon and you get this promotion

**3 Course Local Menu**  
Appetizer, Entree and Dessert  
Fish Soup or Salad  
Ice Cream, Quesillo or Chocolate Cake  
Choice include our specialties:  
Aruban Combo, Cabrito Stoba,  
Fisherman's Loot, Ribs, Gasparito Chicken.

**\$21.95** p/p.

Gasparito #3 • Noord, Aruba  
Tel: (297) 586-7144 / 586-7044

Don't forget about our early bird special from 5:30 to 6:30



**BEST SHOPPING**

# TOURIST GO FLEA MARKET

**Largest Flea Market L.G. Smith Blvd. Apposite Container Harbor - Orange Flags**  
 Aruba Arts and Crafts • Souvenirs • Silver • Largest fashion in Jewelry, Bags, Sandals, Clothing, Blouses, Wallets, T-shirts I Love Aruba, Cigars, Caps, Hats, Woodcraft, new DVD available Hand paintings, over 100.000 articles

**TELL AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS!**

Transportation: Constant public busses, tours, taxi's with your own car stay a few hours.  
 Food and cool drinks, delicious B.B.Q. and drinks. Be smart do what locals do, best shopping lowest Flea Market Prices. Information: Something to sell, we have open tents.

**OPEN SAT. & SUN. 8AM - 6PM**  
**CALL BETO 592-2424**

## Putin says he will sign adoptions bill

N. VASILYEVA

Associated Press

**MOSCOW (AP)** — Russian President Vladimir Putin said Thursday he will sign a controversial bill barring Americans from adopting Russian children, while the Kremlin's children's rights advocate recommended extending the ban to the rest of the world.

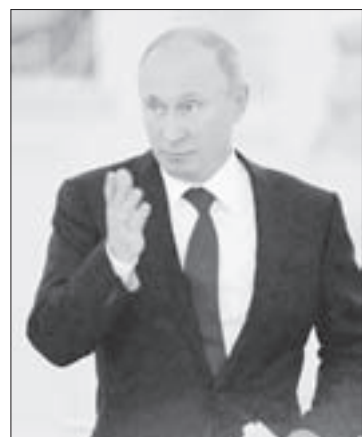
The bill is part of the country's increasingly confrontational stance with the West and has angered some Russians who argue it victimizes children to make a political point.

The law would block dozens of Russian children now in the process of being adopted by American families from leaving the country and cut off a major route out of often-dismal orphanages. The U.S. is the biggest destination for adopted Russian children — more than 60,000 of them have been taken in by Americans over the past two decades.

"I still don't see any reasons why I should not sign it," Putin said at a televised meeting. He went on to say that

he "intends" to do so.

UNICEF estimates that there are about 740,000 children not in parental custody in Russia, while only 18,000 Russians are now waiting to adopt a child. Russian of-



**Russian President Vladimir Putin gestures as he speaks at a State Council meeting in the Kremlin in Moscow, Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012. Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that he will sign a controversial bill banning Americans from adopting Russian children.** (AP Photo/Natalia Kolesnikova)

ficials say they want to encourage more Russians to adopt Russian orphans. Children's rights ombudsman Pavel Astakhov on Thursday petitioned the

president to extend the ban to other countries.

"There is huge money and questionable people involved in the semi-legal schemes of exporting children," he tweeted.

Kremlin critics say Astakhov is trying to extend the ban only to get more publicity and win more favors with Putin. A graduate of the KGB law school and a celebrity lawyer, Astakhov was a pro-Putin activist before becoming children's rights ombudsman and is now seen as the Kremlin's voice on adoption issues.

"This is cynicism beyond limits," opposition leader Ilya Yashin tweeted. "The children rights ombudsman is depriving children of a future." The bill is retaliation for an American law that calls for sanctions against Russian officials deemed to be human rights violators. The U.S. law, called the Magnitsky Act, stems from the case of Sergei Magnitsky, a Russian lawyer who died in jail after being arrested by police officers whom he accused of a \$230 million tax fraud. □

## 22 police officers kidnapped in attacks on Pakistani posts

S. MASOOD

ISMAIL KHAN

© 2012 New York Times

**ISLAMABAD** — The Pakistani Taliban kidnapped at least 22 policemen after coordinated attacks on multiple security check posts in northwestern Pakistan on Thursday, Pakistani officials said. Two policemen were reported killed in related gun battles with the militants. The attacks came before dawn on the outskirts of Peshawar, the insurgency-riven capital of Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province, which has seen a sharp rise in militant actions recently. "The militants attacked three posts on Peshawar's boundary with the semiautonomous tribal region past midnight with mortars and heavy weapons," a security official said, speaking on the condition of anonymity. "The militants burned down the posts and also seized police weapons."

Mian Ifkhar Hussain, the provincial information minister, said security forces had mounted a search

operation to recover the kidnapped policemen. Another government official said the authorities had also drawn in the help of tribal elders to hold talks with the militants to secure the men's release. "We would make all efforts to recover them as soon as possible," the official said. Peshawar lies at the edge of the tribal regions, where the Taliban maintain several hideouts in which they plan and mount attacks on urban centers. On Dec. 22, Bashir Ahmad Bilour, a senior anti-Taliban politician, was killed in a suicide attack after he addressed a political gathering in the Qissa Khwani Bazaar of Peshawar. Militants also attacked the Peshawar airport on Dec. 15, when five of them battled with security forces for several hours in an unsuccessful effort to storm the sprawling facility. On Thursday, Pakistanis commemorated the fifth anniversary of the death of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in a militant attack in 2007. □

# NEED CASH TODAY?

## PAWN OR SELL YOUR GOLD



## VISIT US & COMPARE FOR YOURSELF!



# JUWELENHUISJE

OPEN 10AM - 6PM MONDAY - FRIDAY



ORANJESTAD WERFSTRAAT 7 LOK. 12 TEL 588 4141 SAN NICOLAS B. V/D VEEN ZEPPENFELDSTRAAT 14 TEL 584 4141



# LATIN BRIEFS

## Ecuador: American dies climbing volcano

**QUITO, Ecuador (AP)** — Authorities in Ecuador say an American expert on teen sexual health has died while climbing a volcano. A Wednesday statement from Ecuador's Environment Ministry says Douglas Kirby apparently suffered a heart attack and died while climbing the Cotopaxi volcano. The volcano, with an elevation of nearly 19,400 feet (5,900 meters), is popular with climbers who visit from around the world. Kirby was a senior research scientist at ETR Associates, a Scotts Valley, California-based non-profit organization focusing on health education. The statement from Ecuador's Environment Ministry says Kirby died while climbing the volcano on Saturday. It provided no other details. □

## Sister of Colombian cartel founder killed

**BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)** — Authorities in Colombia say the sister of a man who founded the country's Northern Valley drug cartel has been killed by gunmen. Luis Alberto Cantillo of Colombia's National Police says Lorena Henao was shot to death Thursday on a ranch on the outskirts of Armenia, a city in northeastern Colombia. He says four suspects have been arrested in connection with the attack. Henao's brother Orlando was one of the founders of the Northern Valley cartel before his assassination in 1998. She was married to Ivan Urdinola, who later became leader of the cartel. The Northern Valley cartel rose to prominence during the 1990s, after the Cali Cartel and the Medellin Cartel broke up. □

## Case dismissed against former president

**BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)** — Argentina's highest penal court confirmed a stay on proceedings against an ex-president over charges that he failed to prevent the killing of protesters during the country's worst economic crisis. Fernando De la Rúa declared a state of siege on Dec. 20, 2001, seizing special powers to deal with rioting and looting. Five protesters were killed and 100 were injured during clashes with police. The Federal Court unanimously ruled Thursday that de la Rúa's decision was legitimate and rejected homicide and other charges filed in 2010. De la Rúa served from 1999 to Dec. 2001, when the IMF refused to extend more loans and the economy collapsed. □

## Venezuelan economy grew 5.5% in 2012

**CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)** — Venezuela's gross domestic product grew 5.5 percent in 2012 compared to the previous year, consolidating an economic recovery that began in 2010. The growth was fueled in part by government spending, especially on a program to construct low-income housing. Construction grew 16.8 percent. Central Bank President Nelson Merentes announced the figures Thursday. Private sector production grew 6.1 percent and the public sector production rose 5.2 percent. The all-important oil industry grew 1.4 percent. Industry leaders complain that currency exchange controls make it difficult to procure dollars that manufacturers need to import raw materials. □

## Brazil plans to track number of HIV cases

**BRASILIA, Brazil (AP)** — Brazilian health officials say doctors will be required to notify authorities of every HIV case in the nation. Until now, doctors were only required to notify state and federal officials when patients developed AIDS. Brazil's Health Ministry says Thursday the move is an effort to advance highly lauded efforts to combat AIDS. All AIDS patients in Brazil can receive free drug treatment — a program that now reaches 223,000 people and costs the nation nearly \$700 million a year. Health officials have said they believe here are another 250,000 Brazilians infected with HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. □

# North Korea's China trade up 60%



Cars for export park at a port in Yokohama, south of Tokyo. South Korea said Thursday in an annual report that North Korea's exports and imports with China reached \$5.63 billion in 2011, up 62 percent from \$3.47 billion in the previous year.

(AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

## YOUKYUNG LEE

Associated Press

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)** —

North Korea's trade with China surged more than 60 percent last year, a sign of deepening dependence on Pyongyang's biggest ally.

South Korea's Statistics Korea said Thursday in an annual report that North Korea's exports and imports with China reached \$5.63 billion in 2011, up 62 percent from \$3.47 billion in the previous year.

China accounted for 70 percent of North Korea's annual trade in 2011, higher than 57 percent in 2010. Statistics Korea said the volume of North Korea's annual trade reached \$8.03 billion last year, up 32 percent from 2010.

While Pyongyang's economic exchange with Beijing has been on the rise since 2009, its trade with Seoul, North Korea's second-biggest trade partner after China, has declined. About 20 percent of North Korea's overall trade was with the South in 2011.

The national statistics office releases an annual report on North Korea's economy, energy, trade, population and natural resources based on figures from various agencies at home and abroad. It releases the previous year's data at the end of the following year. The figures for 2012 will become available toward the end of 2013.

North Korea's trade data was gathered from official

statistics figures in overseas countries through KOTRA, the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency, the office said.

The office said North Korea's population is estimated at 24.3 million as of 2011, about half of South Korea's 49.8 million. Its economy expanded 0.8 percent in 2011 over a year earlier, while South Korea's economy grew 3.6 percent.

Its gross national income per capita stood at 1.33 million won (\$1,241), compared with South Korea's 24.92 million won. □

**Come Join the Fun**

**Super Weekend**

**Winners' Circle Card: It's FREE!**

**Friday**

Double points on slots from 12noon to 6pm

**"HAPPY HOUR" RAFFLES at 9, 10 & 11**

**Saturday**

**BINGO 1pm**

8 games + one progressive game, door prizes, drinks & snacks!

\$6 for 4 cards / Avg. 2 for the progressive!

Double points on slots from 4pm to 6pm

**Sunday**

**BINGO 1pm**

8 games + one progressive game, door prizes, drinks & snacks!

\$6 for 4 cards / Avg. 2 for the progressive!

**LADIES NIGHT**

starting 6pm, first 100 ladies receive \$15 free play!

Double points on slots from 4pm to 6pm

**Daily**

**NEW IMPROVED POKER TOURNAMENTS**

- Live Poker action every day from 6pm to 4am
- Ongoing Poker "Bad Beat", Early Bird & Cash-Back promotions
- Earn points on Cash Games

The Casino at the Radisson.  
Open daily from 12noon to 4am.  
Saturday & Sunday 11am to 4am.  
For information call +297 586-4045

**Radisson**  
ARUBA  
RESORT, CASINO & SPA



## red sail sports *Sunset Sail*

Watch the sun go down aboard one of our luxurious catamarans. This relaxing sail includes hors d'oeuvres and open bar.

5:30 to 7:30 pm on Monday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday

Beautiful sunsets

Romantic

Caribbean cocktails

Book now! Via internet: [www.redsailaruba.com](http://www.redsailaruba.com) or by phone: (+297) 586-1603

## Iran dismisses only female in the Cabinet

**RICK GLADSTONE**

© 2012 New York Times

Iran's president on Thursday dismissed his health minister, the only woman to serve in the Cabinet since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, after she publicly criticized the government's response to acute shortages of medicine imports, an indirect consequence of the Western sanctions imposed on the country.

Accounts in the state-run news media of the dismissal of the minister, Marzieh Vahid-Dastjerdi, did not provide an explanation for it. Iran's Press TV website said President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad had appointed a caretaker health minister, Mohammad Hassan Tariqat-Monfared, and had told him in a presidential decree that the reduction of people's health care expenses was among "the main priorities of this important ministry."

Vahid-Dastjerdi, a gynecologist, was appointed in 2009 and is considered an advocate of women's rights in Iranian society. She spoke out last month, apparently angering the president, by saying that an allocation in the budget of foreign currency needed to purchase medicines abroad was inadequate.

"I have heard that luxury cars have been imported with subsidized dollars, but I don't know what happened to the dollars that were supposed to be allocated for importing medicine," Vahid-Dastjerdi said on state television, according to a translation of her remarks reported by Reuters. □

# With a focus on unity, China embraces it's not-so-distant pre-communist past

**EDWARD WONG**

© 2012 New York Times

**GUANGZHOU, China** — It was 1926, not long after the fall of the Qing dynasty, and much of China had been divided among warlords. In the south, leaders of the young Kuomintang political party mustered an army. At its head rode Chiang Kai-shek, who called to his side officers he had helped train, and together they marched north to take down the warlords,

emy's first commandant, appointed by Sun Yat-sen, the idealistic firebrand who wanted to build an army that would unite China.

The academy, now a collection of two-story white buildings near an active naval yard, stands as one of the most potent symbols of the nationalist movement led by Sun, which has strong contemporary echoes in the rallying cry Xi Jinping made to his fellow Chinese after taking over

eled to several cities here in Guangdong province; the tour included visits with senior officers of the People's Liberation Army and a photo opportunity on a naval destroyer. Though he did not visit the Whampoa academy, the message Xi was telegraphing was the same one Sun had relayed a century ago. "When Sun Yat-sen founded the Whampoa academy, his goal was to unite China and to revive China as a

across the country were attracted to Whampoa."

In fits and starts since the end of the Mao era, the Communists and the Kuomintang, who decamped to Taiwan after losing the civil war in 1949, have been engaging in rapprochement. The Whampoa academy represents an era when the two sides cooperated for a greater good, and recent exhibitions organized there by a museum portray the Kuomintang in a relatively conciliatory light. That too has resonance with Xi's clarion call, which is meant to inspire all Chinese, even those outside the mainland, including in Taiwan, to take part in the Communist-led project of reviving the motherland.

The museum took the unusual step this year of organizing an exhibition of 240 historic photographs that traveled to two cities in Taiwan in early December, according to a report by Xinhua, the state news agency. More than 100 Whampoa alumni attended the exhibit opening in Kaohsiung on Dec. 1, Xinhua reported; it added that there were more than 200 living alumni in mainland China and Taiwan. "The photos really bring history to life, and what glorious history it was," said Liu Ding-Pang, 55, a graduate of the Kaohsiung academy descended from Whampoa. But Liu, who viewed the exhibition in Taiwan, added that he did not see as many images of famous Kuomintang graduates of Whampoa as he had expected. □



**A visitor tours the Whampoa Military Academy on Changzhou Island in Guangzhou, China, Dec. 21, 2012. The Whampoa academy represents an era when the Kuomintang, who decamped to Taiwan after losing the civil war in 1949, and Communists cooperated for a greater good, with recent exhibitions portraying the Kuomintang in a relatively conciliatory light.**

(Shiho Fukada/The New York Times)

one by one. The Northern Expedition was one of the first major tests for graduates of the Whampoa Military Academy, founded just two years earlier on sleepy Changzhou Island, about 10 miles east of central Guangzhou, then known to the West as Canton. Chiang was the acad-

in November as general secretary of the Communist Party. Xi has spoken of a "great revival of the Chinese nation," apparently to be accomplished through further opening the economy, tackling official corruption and building up the military. This month, on his first trip outside Beijing, Xi trav-

nation, which is exactly the same mission that Secretary Xi is on," said Zeng Qingliu, a historian with the Guangzhou Academy of Social Sciences who wrote a television script for a drama series on Whampoa. "Under that goal and that mission, Chinese people from all over the world and





*In the luxurious Renaissance Convention Center:*

## Let's celebrate New Year's Eve in style

**ORANJESTAD**—As part of Renaissance Hotels' "Live Life to Discover" platform, more than 100 properties around the world will celebrate 2013 with a unique and indigenous RLife LIVE experience when the clock strikes midnight. On December 31st from 8pm till 1am Renaissance Convention Center will be the meeting point for the best New Year's Eve celebration on our island. What's better than to start a New Year in a unique ambience with friends and family, where special decoration is the centerpiece and will provide the perfect setting for an unforgettable New Year's Eve celebration. Entrance fee for this celebration is \$170 for adults and children between the ages of 5 and 12 will pay only \$45. Your New Year's Eve event fee includes a dinner party, premium open bar and live enter-



tainment by our local band NBO. At midnight there will be a firework show and a toast with fine champagne to welcome the New Year. For reservations please call 5836000 - ext 6404 -6403 or contact your navigator desk.

For more info please visit [www.renaissancearuba.com](http://www.renaissancearuba.com), find us on Facebook or follow Renaissance Aruba Resort on Twitter. □





## At the Red Parrot:

# Richard & Nancy Ritter celebrate their Golden Anniversary!

**PUNTA BRAVO** – The Ritters celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary surrounded by family members at the Red Parrot restaurant at Divi Aruba.

Nancy explains it was her dream to host a dinner party with children, and grandchildren in attendance, and that it came true on the island, at her favorite restaurant. The Ritters, from the USA, are staying at the Tamarijn all inclu-



sive for vacation, a total of 15 family members, who love grandma and grand-

pa and wish them another 50 years of health and happiness, together. □

## AIG ARUBA Insurance donates to worthy causes!

**PALM BEACH** - All the general insurance companies of AIG like American Home & Chartis have been renamed to 'AIG' after their mother company worldwide. Also a new slogan 'Bring on Tomorrow' has been added to the new logo of AIG. In Aruba, the process is still ongoing and necessary legal and regulatory approvals are being obtained right now.

In keeping with AIG's slogan 'Bring on Tomorrow', AIG ARUBA Insurance decided to make a donation

to two worthy causes in Aruba – young children & elderly persons. The first donation was received by Ms. Anky Vrolijk, General Secretary of YMCA at the hands of Prakash & Niti Gupta. And the second one was handed over to the team of 'Cas di Glas' held in support of White Yellow Cross who will dedicate funds to the cause of elderly care in Aruba. Accompanying photos show the donations made by AIG Aruba and the guests present at the ceremony. □



# Beauty On The Beach

## Tendresse Tritsch

She is from Hengelo, Holland. This is her first time in Aruba, she is staying with locals for one month. She loves the Beach.

**WINNER OF TRIP ADVISOR'S CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE 2012**

### The Blue Lobster

**Best Lobster House and International Cuisine's Restaurant in Aruba**  
**For reservation: 586-3843**



# RENAISSANCE MALL



## OPEN THIS SUNDAY

## 10 am - 2 pm



Adolfo Dominguez - Aldo - Aruba Aloe Store - Atlantis Adventures - BCBG Maxazria  
Bulgari - Calvin Klein - Carolina Herrera - Cartier - Chopard - Cigar Emporium - Ci Gusta - Coach  
CocoSol - Colombian Emeralds International - Crocs - Custo Barcelona - David Yurman - Diesel  
Dufry - Entre Nous - Epk - Ermenegildo Zegna - Eva Boutique - Façonnable - Furla - Gandelman  
Gucci - Guess - Guess Kids - Hilfiger Denim - Jewelers Warehouse - Kenneth Cole  
Lacoste - La Martina - Longchamp - Louis Vuitton - Michael Kors - Monalisa - Pier Minimarket  
Ralph Lauren - Rolex - Starbucks - Sun Specs - Tag Heuer - Vilebrequin - Yves Rocher

Located at the Renaissance Resort  
Oranjestad, City Center

**R**  
RENAISSANCE®  
MALL



## As Employee and Supervisor of the Year:

# Playa Linda honors Joselito Lopez and Evelina Werleman



**PALM BEACH** - Employees of the Playa Linda Beach Resort marked the season with high spirits in a recent celebration that helped mark the year's accomplishments.

A highlight of the evening was the announcement of the 'best of the best' among Playa Linda employees, with top honors going to Joselito Lopez, from the Loss Prevention department, as the Employee of the Year, and Evelina Werleman, from the Front Office department, named the Supervisor of the Year. Loud cheers following the announcement bore out the support both Joselito Lopez and Evelina

Werleman have among their colleagues. Praise was also merited for Ana Maria Hurtado-Es-

pinosa, who won the Star Award honor.

As one of the few female employees within the Maintenance Department, she has proven she can hold her own as well as excel in her position as a painter. As Playa Linda's Rookie of the Year, Maria Matos, was recognized as proving an asset to the Housekeeping Department.

Collective efforts also earned admiration with the Department of the Year honor going to both the Maintenance Department as well as Front Office & Reservations Department. Both departments provided invaluable over the last year with the successful completion of renovations. Various upgrades were carried out by the Maintenance Department, while the Front Office & Reservations did an excellent job in keeping guests informed during that process.

Well-deserved awards were presented by Playa Linda Beach Resort General Manager Jan van Nes, together with Human Resource Manager Sulaika Kelly and Financial Director Richard Betrian. □

**cOndominium**  
eagle beach

the perfect beach is Only the beginning

selling now...  
**20**  
exclusive condominiums



J.E. Irausquin Blvd. 224  
Oranjestad • Aruba

**297.587-5300**

**297.732-0000**

sales@o-eaglebeacharuba.com  
www.o-eaglebeacharuba.com





Los Angeles Galaxy's David Beckham, of England, waves as he stands with his son Romeo, in Carson, Calif., USA, in this file photo dated Saturday, Dec. 1, 2012.

Associated Press

## Beckham in no rush to join new club

LONDON (AP) — Nearly a month after leaving the Los Angeles Galaxy, David Beckham is in no rush to find a new team as the former England captain mulls over "a number of serious proposals" from clubs across the world. The 37-year-old midfielder is seeking a final challenge in his illustrious career and has been linked with sides in France, Australia and Asia. A "host of clubs" have come in with offers for Beckham, according to a statement by his management company issued to The Associated Press on Thursday, but it remains "early days in the process." "David is in no hurry to make a decision, the key is making the right one as he has always done successfully in his career," the statement said.

Continued on next page

# IT TAKES TWO



## Hawks edge Pistons in 2OTs

Detroit Pistons point guard Will Bynum (12) drives to the basket against Atlanta Hawks small forward Josh Smith (5) in the first overtime period of an NBA basketball game on Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2012, in Atlanta. Atlanta won 126-119 in double overtime.

Associated Press





Japanese baseball player Hideki Matsui smiles as he speaks to the media during a news conference, Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012, in New York Associated Press

## Hideki Matsui retires from baseball

HOWIE RUMBERG

AP Sports Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Hideki Matsui has retired from professional baseball, saying he is no longer able to perform at the level that earned him a World Series MVP with the New York Yankees and three Central League MVPs in Japan. Matsui announced his retirement Thursday at a news conference in New York that was conducted only in Japanese and broadcast live in his home country. The 38-year-old Matsui batted .282 with 175 homers and 760 RBIs for the Yankees, Los Angeles Angels, Oakland Athletics and Tampa Bay Rays, having moved from the Yomiuri Giants in Japan. Always cool under pressure, Matsui hit a grand slam in his first game at Yankee Stadium and had six RBIs in his finale with the Yankees — Game 6 of the 2009 World Series. □



# Murray loses to Tipsarevic in Abu Dhabi tournament

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — Andy Murray had a shaky start to his preparations for the 2013 season Thursday, losing in straight sets to Janko Tipsarevic in the opening match of the World Tennis Championship exhibition tournament.

Two early breaks in each set helped Tipsarevic dispatch the third-ranked Murray 6-3, 6-4. The ninth-ranked Serb now faces Nicolas Almagro, a late replacement for Rafael Nadal who pulled out of the tournament with a stomach bug.

"It's not every day that you get to play a Grand Slam champion and an Olympic gold medalist," Tipsarevic said. □



Serbia's Janko Tipsarevic returns the ball to Andy Murray from Britain during the first day of Mubadala Tennis Championship in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Thursday Dec. 27, 2012. Associated Press

## Beckham

Continued from page 17

Beckham, one of the most famous sportsmen in the world, ended his five-year stint in the United States by helping the Galaxy win the MLS Cup on Dec. 1. He has said a return to the English Premier League, where he starred for Manchester United between 1993-2003, is unlikely. Beckham is also reported to have ruled out a move to Australia's A-League. French sports daily L'Equipe reported Thursday that Monaco, an ambitious French second-division club, has ended talks with Beckham, although his advisers have refused to comment. "David is enjoying spending quality time with his family over the holidays," his management company said.

## Wild Oats XI wins Sydney-Hobart race for 6th time



In this image provided by Rolex, crew on Wild Oats XI prepare to cross the finish line at Hobart, Australia, Friday, Dec. 28, 2012, to take line honors in the Sydney Hobart yacht race. Associated Press

HOBART, Australia (AP) — Wild Oats XI won line honors in the Sydney to Hobart yacht race for the sixth time, breaking its own record time in the process.

The Mark Richards-skippered super maxi crossed the finish line at Constitution Dock in Hobart at 7:23 a.m. Friday in a time of 1 day, 18 hours, 23 minutes, 12 seconds after leaving Sydney Harbour on Wednesday.

That was 17 minutes faster than the previous mark set by Wild Oats XI in 2005 for the 628-nautical-mile (723-mile; 1,163-kilometer) race.

"It was close, only just," Richards said

of the race record. "2005 was a great year, but this year was even better.

"It was a very tricky night, the breeze died on us. But we made a lot of sail changes and the guys did a great job."

Another super maxi, Ragamuffin Loyal, which won last year's race as Investec Loyal, was about 50 nautical miles behind and expected to finish second later Friday, although the yacht could face a time penalty for crossing the start line early.

Another maxi, Lahana, was in third place, another 50 nautical miles behind Ragamuffin.

Wild Oats XI won consecutive line honors from 2005 to 2008 and in 2010. Last year, it finished second to Investec Loyal by just three minutes in one of the closest finishes in the race, which was first held in 1945.

Two boats retired on Thursday, the first withdrawals of the race, leaving 74 of the fleet competing.

Last year's handicap runner-up Living Doll pulled out with a broken rudder and was sailing to the port of Eden in southern New South Wales state. Primitive Cool quit with a damaged mainsail and was also heading to Eden. □





**South Beach Lobby**

**The Best Entertainment Place On The Island**

WEEKEND AND HOLIDAYS From 5:00pm - 3:00am  
DURING THE WEEK 5:00pm - 1:00am

**Authentic Lebanese and Asian Food**

**Yalla Yalla**

**Middle Eastern Food**



**FOR THE ORIGINAL SUSHI HERE IN ARUBA**

**HOUSE OF JAPAN**

**THE BEST SUSHI PLACE**

**ALL LOCATED AT THE SOUTH BEACH CENTRE**  
Sunday thru Thursday from 5:00pm - 12:30am  
Friday and Saturday from 5:00pm - 2:00am



**Segafredo**

**PRESENT THIS AD RECEIVE \$10 DISCOUNT ON FOOD**

# Atlanta Hawks edge Detroit Pistons in 2 overtimes

**ATLANTA (AP)** — Josh Smith scored 31 points and Al Horford added 22 as the Atlanta Hawks beat the Detroit Pistons 126-119 in double overtime on Wednesday after blowing a 22-point fourth-quarter lead.

Detroit reserves Will Bynum and Charlie Villanueva scored a combined 26 points in the final period of regulation to spark the Pistons' comeback and force overtime.

Atlanta has won two straight and eight of 12, while Detroit has lost seven of nine.

Bynum finished with 31 points and assisted on the last two baskets of regulation, when Andre Drummond's dunk cut the lead to two and Austin Daye's 3-pointer gave the Pistons a 101-100 lead with 4 seconds remaining.

Horford followed by making just one of two free throws for the Hawks, sending the game to the first overtime. Jeff Teague hit a 3-pointer with 2:46 remaining in the second overtime to put Atlanta ahead for good.

Heat 105, Bobcats 92

The Miami Heat avoided a letdown a night after an emotional win over Oklahoma City, beating the lowly Charlotte Bobcats 105-92.

LeBron James had 27 points, 12 rebounds and eight assists and Dwyane Wade added 29 points and nine rebounds as the Heat handed the Bobcats their 16th straight loss.

Heat coach Erik Spoelstra hinted before the game he was worried about how much energy Miami expended in its close win over the Thunder on Christmas and whether they would play hard against a team that had lost 15 straight.

Kemba Walker had 27 points for the Bobcats, who haven't won since Nov. 24. Nuggets 126, Lakers 114

The Denver Nuggets overcame a 40-point effort by Kobe Bryant to beat the Los Angeles Lakers 126-114 for their seventh straight win at home.

Corey Brewer matched his career high with 27 points, Kenneth Faried had 21 points and 15 rebounds, and Danilo Gallinari added 19 points for Denver.

Bryant has scored at least 30 in 10 straight games, but it wasn't enough to keep the Lakers' five-game winning streak from being broken. Pau Gasol added 19 points for the Lakers and Steve Nash had 15 points in his third game back from injury.

Rockets 87, Timberwolves 84

The Houston Rockets rallied for their fifth straight win, beating the Minnesota Timberwolves 87-84.

James Harden scored 17 of his 30 points in the fourth quarter, including a drive to the basket that gave Houston an 85-84 lead with 39 seconds left.

J.J. Barea had 18 for Minnesota and Russian rookie Alexey Shved added 16. Kevin Love had 12 rebounds, but scored just seven points on 3 of 14 shooting.

Spurs 100, Raptors 80

San Antonio ended Toronto's five-game winning streak, using a balanced attack to beat the Raptors 100-80.

The Spurs had five players in double figures, led by Tim Duncan with 15 points and Manu Ginobili with 14. Duncan had six rebounds and was 6 for 11 from the field in only 20 minutes.

San Antonio's starters out-

scored their Toronto counterparts 54-25.

Knicks 99, Suns 97

The depleted New York Knicks edged the Phoenix Suns 99-97 when J.R. Smith sank a baseline 21-footer at the buzzer after a Phoenix turnover with a second to play.

Smith made a tough jumper from 15 feet to tie the game at 97 with 10.6 seconds left.

Then, after the turnover, Jason Kidd inbounded to Smith, who got the shot off as he sailed out of bounds. Smith scored 27 and Kidd 23.

New York was without the NBA's No. 2 scorer Carmelo Anthony (hyperextended knee) and Raymond Felton (finger), both hurt in the Christmas day loss to the Lakers in Los Angeles.

Bucks 108, Nets 93

In Milwaukee, the Bucks beat the short-handed Brooklyn Nets for the 13th straight time, 108-93.

Brandon Jennings scored 25 points and Monta Ellis added 20 points and a season-high six steals to



Charlotte Bobcats' Hakim Warrick (21) covers the face of Miami Heat's LeBron James (6) after a shot during the second half of an NBA basketball game in Charlotte, N.C., Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2012. Miami won 105-92.

Associated Press

lead the Bucks.

Brook Lopez had 21 points and 10 rebounds for the Nets, who fell to 3-10 in December.

The Nets were without starting guard Deron Williams, who injured his wrist in a fall during Tuesday's loss to the Boston Celtics.

76ers 99, Grizzlies 89

Led by Dorell Wright's season-high 28 points, the Philadelphia 76ers ended a six-game road losing streak with a 99-89 win over the Memphis Grizzlies.

Spencer Hawes added 20 points and Thaddeus Young and Jrue Holiday each had 13 points for Philadelphia. □

**WELCOME TO THE NEWEST LOBSTER HOUSE OF ARUBA**  
EXPECTACULAR HIGH QUALITY CUISINE  
WARMTH, PERSONALIZED, PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

**Present this add when seated to claim your discount!**  
**Discount on main dishes, except 4 dishes.**

Up to

**30% OFF**

30% on cash  
10% on creditcard

Valid until  
**December 31st 2012**

**CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE**  
2012  
The Blue Lobster  
Aruba

**The Blue Lobster**  
INTERNATIONAL CUISINE & LOBSTER HOUSE

**THE BLUE LOBSTER FEATURES:**  
LIVE LOBSTER  
OVER 18 LOBSTER DISHES  
BLACK ANGUS BEEF  
FRESH CATCH OF THE DAY  
INTERNATIONAL DISHES

Open from Monday till Saturday  
For Lunch 11am till 4pm  
For Dinner 5pm till 10 pm.

We are located on Palm beach 164A  
1/2 mile from Wendy's at Noord.

Reservations recommended,  
Please call 586 3843 and or 586 4788  
info@arubabluelobster.com

**This promotion is subject to change at any time, and is not valid with other promotions.**



www.arubabluelobster.com

Twitter Facebook



# Brooklyn Nets fire head coach Avery Johnson

**BRIAN MAHONEY**

**AP Basketball Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Avery Johnson was fired Thursday as coach of the Brooklyn Nets, who have struggled recently in their season of new surroundings and elevated expectations. After a strong start to their first season in Brooklyn, the Nets have lost 10 of 13 games to fall well behind the first-place New York Knicks, the team they so badly want to compete with in their new home. "We don't have the same fire now than we did when we were 11-4," general manager Billy King said at a news conference in East Rutherford, New Jersey. "I tried to talk to Avery about it and we just can't figure it out."

The same pattern kept on happening."

Assistant P.J. Carlesimo will coach the Nets on an interim basis, starting Friday night with a home game against Charlotte. King said the Nets might reach out to other candidates, but for now the job was Carlesimo's. The GM wouldn't comment on a report that the team planned to get in touch with former Lakers



In this Dec. 11, 2012, file photo, Brooklyn Nets guard Deron Williams (8) and head coach Avery Johnson chat during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the New York Knicks at the Barclays Center in New York.

**Associated Press**

coach Phil Jackson.

King said the decision to dismiss Johnson was made by ownership after a phone discussion Thursday morning. Owner Mikhail Prokhorov had expressed faith in Johnson before the season. "With the direction we were going we felt we had to make a change," King said.

Johnson was in the final year of a three-year, \$12 million contract.

"It's a really disappointing day for me and my family. It's my wife's birthday. It's not a great birthday gift," Johnson said. "I didn't see this coming. But this is ownership's decision. It's part of the business. Fair or unfair, it's time for a new voice

and hopefully they'll get back on track."

After beating the Knicks in their first meeting Nov. 26, probably the high point of Johnson's tenure, the Nets went 5-10 and frustrations have been mounting.

"Our goal is to get to the conference finals," King said. "We started out good and then we stumbled. We have to get back to playing winning basketball. It's the entire team. It's not like golf, where Tiger Woods can blame the caddie. It takes five guys on the court and they're all struggling. We have to figure out the ways to get back to winning."

I don't know what happened. I'm not sure. But unfortunately, it did happen." The Nets were embarrassed by Boston on national TV on Christmas, then were routed by Milwaukee 108-93 on Wednesday night for their fifth loss in six games. Star guard Deron Williams recently complained about Johnson's offense, and Nets CEO Brett Yormark took to Twitter after the loss to Celtics to voice his displeasure with the performance.

King said the change was

not made because Williams was unhappy, and he added the point guard himself has to play better. Johnson also stood by Williams.

"From Day One, I always had a really good relationship with him."

I don't think it's fair for anyone to hang this on Deron," Johnson said. "We were just going through a bad streak, a bad spell. It's not time for me to be down on one player."

That would be the easy way."

Brooklyn started the season 11-4, winning five in a row to end November, when Johnson was Eastern Conference coach of the month. But he couldn't do anything to stop this slump, one the Nets never anticipated after a \$350 million summer spending spree they believed would take them toward the top of their conference.

Johnson has been the Nets' coach for a little more than two seasons. He went 60-116 with the Nets, who moved from New Jersey to Brooklyn to start the season. Johnson coached the Dallas Mavericks to a spot in the NBA Finals in 2006.

# Central Michigan edges Western Kentucky 24-21

**DETROIT (AP)** — Central Michigan escaped with a 24-21 victory over Western Kentucky in college football's Little Caesars Pizza Bowl on Wednesday, stopping the Hilltoppers on fourth-and-2 in the final minute when a field goal could have sent the game to overtime.

Ryan Radcliff had thrown an 11-yard touchdown pass to Cody Wilson with 5:11 remaining to give Central Michigan the lead.

Western Kentucky then had a chance to level the score with a field goal in the final minute, but interim coach Lance Guidry decided to go for the victory after his players made their feelings known on the matter.

"That was all the players. We were going to kick the

field goal, but they told me that they were here to win

the game," Guidry said. "I asked everyone and they



Central Michigan defensive back Jarret Chapman (29) acknowledges the crowd after Western Kentucky tight end Jack Doyle missed a fourth-down catch during the final minute of the fourth quarter of the Little Caesars Pizza Bowl NCAA college football game at Ford Field in Detroit, Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2012.

**Associated Press**

wanted to go for it so we took the chance."

It didn't work out. On fourth down from the 19-yard line with 51 seconds left, quarterback Kawaun Jakes threw incomplete.

Radcliff went 19 of 29 for 253 yards and three touchdowns, but Central Michigan (7-6) needed to rally late. Down 21-17, Zurlon Tipton appeared to have put the Chippewas ahead in the fourth quarter, but his fourth-down run was ruled short of the goal line after a review. Central Michigan then forced the Hilltoppers to punt from their own end zone, and Avery Cunningham blocked it. Although the ball bounced around for a bit, the Chippewas finally secured it and took over with great field posi-

tion inside the 30.

Radcliff found Wilson in the back left corner of the end zone for a 24-21 lead.

"I couldn't have scripted it any better than my last catch being the winning TD in a bowl game," said Wilson, a senior who had 10 catches for 101 yards on the night.

The Hilltoppers (7-6) fell just short in their first bowl since joining college football's top tier in 2009.

Western Kentucky's Antonio Andrews rushed for 119 yards, but didn't reach the 274 all-purpose yards he needed to break the single-season record of 3,250 set by Oklahoma State's Barry Sanders in 1988. Andrews, a junior, had 184 all-purpose yards to finish the season at 3,161.



# U.S. routs Germany 8-0 at junior hockey worlds



Team USA forward Sean Kuraly, left, celebrates his goal against Germany with teammates Mike Riley, right, and Seth Jones, center, during the first period of an IIHF World Junior Championships hockey game in Ufa, Russia, Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012.

**UFA, Russia (AP)** — The United States routed Germany 8-0 Thursday at the world junior ice hockey tournament behind a goal and two assists each from Alex Galchenyuk and Riley Barber. This was the first Group B game for the Americans, who are tied for first place with Canada. The Canadians downed Germany 9-3 on Wednesday. U.S. goaltender John Gibson stopped 19 shots through two periods. He was replaced for the third by Jon Gillies, who made seven saves.

Sean Kuraly added a goal and an assist for the Americans, who were dominant throughout the game and forced German goalie Marvin Cupper to make 38 saves. Also Thursday, Switzerland beat Latvia 7-2 in Group A. The Americans were up 3-0 after the first period, thanks to goals from Kuraly, Jacob Trouba and Galchenyuk. They scored another three in the second — through Barber, Shayne Gostisbehere and Ryan Hartman. J.T. Miller then scored on a solo effort midway through

the third and Seth Jones completed the rout less than two minutes later. Russia is third in the Group B standings with after beating Slovakia in overtime on Wednesday, while Germany is last. Earlier in the Group A match, Mike Kunzle scored two goals to help give Switzerland a winning start to the tournament. Nikolais Jelisejevs put Latvia ahead on a power play but Christoph Berschy equalized and Kunzle gave Switzerland the lead for good with 1:33 left in the first pe-

riod. Lukas Balmelli made it 3-1 early in the second before Arturs Sevchenko pulled a goal back less than three minutes later. But Switzerland dominated the rest of the game, with further goals by Sven Andriegatto, Sandro Zangger, Kunzle and Alessio Bertaglia. Luca Boltshauser had 30 saves for Switzerland, while Elvis Merzlikins made 25 stops for Latvia, which fell

to its second straight loss. Switzerland is tied for first on three points with Finland and Sweden in Group A. The Czech Republic is also in the group. The preliminary round continues Friday with Finland facing the Czech Republic and Sweden playing Switzerland in Group A at the Sports palace, while Canada will take on Slovakia and U.S. will face Russia at Ufa Arena. □

## Djokovic, Venus Williams at Hopman Cup

**PERTH, Australia (AP)** — Top-ranked men's player Novak Djokovic and seven-time Grand Slam singles champion Venus Williams will represent their countries at the Hopman Cup team tennis tournament, although they won't play each other unless Serbia and the United States advance to the final. Playing for the first time on blue courts at the new Perth Arena, the eight-country event begins Saturday when Spain plays South Africa and Germany takes on Australia. Williams and her partner John Isner will see their first action Sunday when the



U.S. plays South Africa, and Spain also plays France on the same day. Serbia, represented by Djokovic and Ana Ivanovic, plays Italy on

Monday. Each match consists of women's and men's singles followed by mixed doubles. □

PALM BEACH PLAZA

**Megaplex 8**

THE FIRST THEATER WITH CHILDREN PRICES IN ARUBA

NOW YOU CAN BUY YOUR TICKETS ONLINE USING **cinemaexpress** AT CARIBBEANCINEMAS.COM/ARUBA

586-0074

DECEMBER 25 - JANUARY 2

ENJOY YOUR MOVIE WITH

**NEW THIS WEEK**

**PARENTAL GUIDANCE**

ON TWO SCREENS

With Spanish Subtitles

Mon - Thurs 2:10 / 3:20 / 4:30 / 5:40 / 6:50 / 8:00 / 9:10

Fri 2:10 / 3:20 / 4:30 / 5:40 / 6:50 / 8:00 / 9:10 / 10:20 / 11:30

Sat 2:10 / 3:20 / 4:30 / 5:40 / 6:50 / 8:00 / 9:10 / 10:20 / 11:30

Sun & Hol 2:10 / 3:20 / 4:30 / 5:40 / 6:50 / 8:00 / 9:10

Billy Cristal

Bette Midler

**NEW THIS WEEK**

**DJANGO UNCHAINED**

5 GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINATIONS®

5 BEST PICTURE

With Spanish Subtitles

Mon - Fri 1:55 / 5:15 / 8:35

Sat 1:55 / 5:15 / 8:35

Sun & Hol 1:55 / 5:15 / 8:35

Jaime Foxx

Leonardo DiCaprio

**NEW THIS WEEK**

**MONSTERS, INC. 3D**

Disney • PIXAR

With Spanish Subtitles

Mon - Fri 2:45 / 4:55 / 7:05

Sat 2:45 / 4:55 / 7:05

Sun & Hol 2:45 / 4:55 / 7:05

John Goodman

Billy Crystal

**NEW THIS WEEK**

**THIS IS 40**

With Spanish Subtitles

Mon - Fri 9:15

Sat 9:15

Sun & Hol 9:15

Paul Rudd

Leslie Mann

**Tom Cruise**

**Rosamund Pike**

**JACK REACHER**

With Spanish Subtitles

PG-13

Mon - Thurs 3:25 / 6:10 / 9:00

Fri 3:25 / 6:10 / 9:00 / 11:45

Sat 3:25 / 6:10 / 9:00 / 11:45

Sun & Hol 3:25 / 6:10 / 9:00

**Naomi Watts**

**Ewan McGregor**

**THE IMPOSSIBLE**

GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINEE

BEST PERFORMANCE BY AN ACTRESS

With Spanish Subtitles

PG-13

Mon - Thurs 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20

Fri 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20 / 11:50

Sat 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20 / 11:50

Sun & Hol 1:50 / 4:20 / 6:50 / 9:20

**Martin Freeman**

**Ian McKellen**

**THE HOBBIT**

AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

3D Version

PG-13

Mon - Fri 2:00 / 5:25 / 8:50

Sat 2:00 / 5:25 / 8:50

Sun & Hol 2:00 / 5:25 / 8:50

**Chris Pine**

**Alec Baldwin**

**RISE OF THE GUARDIANS**

GOLDEN GLOBE NOMINEE

BEST ANIMATED FEATURE FILM

3D Version

With Spanish Subtitles

PG

Mon - Thurs 1:50 / 4:05 / 6:20 / 8:35

Fri 1:50 / 4:05 / 6:20 / 8:35 / 10:50

Sat 1:50 / 4:05 / 6:20 / 8:35 / 10:50

Sun & Hol 1:50 / 4:05 / 6:20 / 8:35

**STARTING THURSDAY JANUARY 3**

**Hugh Jackman**

**Anne Hathaway**

**Les Misérables**

PG-13



## Judge drops health case

**CASEY SEILER**

© 2012 Albany Times Union

**ALBANY** — A state Supreme Court justice has dismissed a challenge to a state decision to impose the same health care cost increases on retired workers negotiated by public employees unions. In a forceful decision, state Supreme Court Justice George B. Ceresia of Troy concluded that even giving the retirees a liberal interpretation of their arguments, "petitioners have failed to state any valid cause of action."

The suit was brought by the New York Retired Public Employees Association on behalf of retirees, who saw their share of health insurance costs increase following the tough contract negotiations of mid-2011.

As with active employees, the share for retirees went up from 10 percent to 12 percent of the total premium cost for an individual plan, and from 25 percent to 27 percent for a family plan. Plaintiffs noted typical costs could go from \$59 to \$95 per month for an individual, or from \$250 to \$331 per month for a family plan — especially tough, they argued, for retirees on a fixed income. Defendants included Gov. Andrew Cuomo, the Department of Civil Service, Budget Director Bob Megna and others. The state was defended by state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman's office.

In his 18-page order, dated Dec. 17, Ceresia rejected the three grounds for action in the challenge to the increase. In dismissing the plaintiffs' claim that the increase violates Civil Service Law, Ceresia said the suit failed to note the amendment of the law that allows the state to increase the retirees' share. The ruling also rejected what the judge referred to as their "belated alternate argument" that the court should protect employees who retired before Oct. 1, 2012 from being hit with the increase. The action would, Ceresia wrote, be a clear violation of the separation of powers. □

## Study:

# Drug shortage tied to poorer cancer survival

**MARILYNN MARCHIONE**  
AP Chief Medical Writer

Young cancer patients who couldn't get a key medicine because of a U.S.-wide drug shortage were more likely to suffer a relapse than others who were able to get the preferred treatment, doctors report. It's the first evidence that a long-standing drug-supply problem probably

lymphoma. Like childhood leukemia, it can be cured nearly 80 percent of the time. But a drug shortage that has worsened since 2009 is threatening that success rate, doctors report in Thursday's New England Journal of Medicine. Hundreds of drugs, including sedatives, antibiotics, painkillers and cancer treatments, have gone in

generics infused during surgery or cancer treatment. Doctors sometimes substitute different drugs for ones in short supply. But proving that the swaps led to poorer results has been tough, especially for cancer patients whose disease and response to treatment vary so much.

"We really couldn't put our finger on, did anybody really suffer?" said Dr. Michael Link, a cancer specialist at Stanford University and past president of the American Society of Clinical Oncology.

The new study, led by Dr. Monika Metzger of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, gives the best evidence so far that patients are suffering. It focused on mechlorethamine, or nitrogen mustard, a drug that has been in short supply until last month, when more became available. Doctors compared results among 181 Hodgkin lymphoma patients who received the drug to 40 others who were given a different chemotherapy, cyclophosphamide, when the first choice was unavailable. Only 75 percent of those given the substitute drug stayed free of cancer for two years versus 88 percent who received the preferred treatment.

"We can think of no cred-

ible explanation for this dramatic difference" other than the drug substitution, the authors wrote.

No patients died, but those who relapsed were given more aggressive treatments, including stem-cell transplants that have more side effects and can harm fertility.

One of them was Abby Alonzo, of Port St. Lucie, Fla. She was diagnosed with lymphoma three years ago, when she was 10. After eight weeks of treatment with the preferred drug, "she was doing wonderfully," said her mother, Katie Alonzo.

Then doctors said they were out of it.

"I said, what do you mean, we don't have the medication my child needs?" Katie Alonzo said.

After four weeks on the substitute chemo, Abby's cancer had returned and spread to more places, her mother said. The child received high doses of chemotherapy and radiation and now seems cancer-free, although the treatments damaged her lung capacity, leaving her short of breath.

"When your child has cancer you live day by day," and to find out a life-saving medicine isn't available is "very, very frightening," Katie Alonzo said. □



**This June 2010 photo provided by St. Jude Children's Research Hospital shows Abby Alonzo during her treatment at St. Jude's. Alonzo was one of many young cancer patients who couldn't get a key medicine during treatment because of a national drug shortage. Those patients were more likely to suffer a relapse than others that were able to get the preferred treatment, doctors report. It's the first evidence that the long standing drug supply problem probably had affected cancer outcomes in specific patients.** (AP Photo/St. Jude Research Hospital)

has affected cancer treatment results in specific patients.

The study involved more than 200 children and young adults with a blood cancer called Hodgkin

and out of short supply in recent years. Reasons include manufacturing and contamination problems, plant shutdowns, and fewer makers and lower profits for certain drugs, especially

## Bristol-Myers, Pfizer's Eliquis approved in Japan

**LINDA A. JOHNSON**  
Associated Press  
TRENTON, New Jersey (AP)

— Regulators in Japan have approved sales of an anticlotting drug called Eliquis, developed by Bristol-Myers Squibb Co. and Pfizer Inc., that's a potential blockbuster in a new category of medicines to prevent strokes and heart attacks.

But that's only if it can win U.S. approval, as two rival drugs have done.

Pfizer and Bristol-Myers said Wednesday that Japan approved use of Eliquis for treating the most common type of irregular heartbeat, atrial fibrillation, in patients

at risk for strokes or dangerous clots called systemic embolisms. Already approved for sale in Canada and the European Union, Eliquis has twice been rejected by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

About a quarter of all people aged 40 and older develop atrial fibrillation, a condition in which the heart's two upper chambers contract irregularly and don't pump blood efficiently. This can persist for years or only happen occasionally.

It increases the risk of a stroke fivefold, and strokes caused by atrial fibrillation are more severe than other

strokes, with half of patients who suffer them dying within a year if not treated.

For decades, atrial fibrillation patients were treated with the blood thinner warfarin, sold under brands including Coumadin.

While warfarin is very cheap, users must get frequent blood tests to ensure they're getting enough to prevent strokes but not too high a dose, which can cause dangerous internal bleeding.

In the last two years, drug regulators in the U.S. and other countries have approved two new anticlotting drugs for patients with atrial fibrillation and other

conditions: Pradaxa, from German drugmaker Boehringer Ingelheim, and Xarelto, from partners Johnson & Johnson and Bayer Healthcare.

Some analysts have said Eliquis, known chemically as apixaban, is the best of the three new drugs, but Pradaxa and Xarelto got a big head start in building U.S. market share.

That means that if Eliquis is approved by the FDA, Pfizer and Bristol-Myers will have a tough job persuading doctors and patients who already have switched from warfarin to Pradaxa or Xarelto to again switch medication. □



**Papillon**  
RESTAURANT

## French fine dining with Caribbean flair

Open for dinner daily from 5 pm - 11 pm  
Early Bird specials - Exclusive wines - Excellent service

Located at The Village (across from Radisson)

## U.S. colleges help students polish online reputation



Arkansas students, painted and wearing white, "call the hogs" during a timeout in an NCAA college basketball game against Syracuse in Fayetteville, Ark., Friday, Nov. 30, 2012. Arkansas fans participated in a "white out" for the game.

Associated Press

### CAROLYN THOMPSON

Associated Press

**BUFFALO, New York (AP)**

— Samantha Grossman wasn't always thrilled with the impression that emerged when people Googled her name. So before she graduated from Syracuse University in the U.S., the school provided her with an online tool that allowed her to put her best Web image forward.

Now when people Google her, they go straight to a professional photo, her cum laude degree and credentials, and she credits it with helping her land a digital advertising job in New York.

"I wanted to make sure people would find the actual me," she said.

Some universities offer such online tools to their students free of charge, realizing that ill-considered Web profiles of drunken frat parties, prank videos and worse can doom graduates.

The trend is based on studies showing that most employers Google prospective hires and nearly all of them won't bother to go past the first page of results. The online tools don't eliminate the embarrassing material, they just put the graduate's most flattering, professional profile front and center.

"These students have been comfortable with the intimate details of their lives on display since birth," said Lisa Severy, president-elect of the National Career Development Association.

After initially supplying BrandYourself accounts to graduating seniors, Syracuse University this year struck a deal with the company — begun by a trio of alumni — to offer accounts to all of its undergraduate and graduate students and alumni at no additional charge. About 25,000 people have access to it so far.

Online reputation repair

companies have been around for at least a couple of years, often charging hundreds or thousands of dollars a year to arrange for good results on search engine result pages. BrandYourself, which normally charges \$10 a month for an account, launched two years ago as a less expensive, do-it-yourself alternative after co-founder Pete Kistler ran into a problem

with his own name.

"He couldn't get an internship because he was getting mistaken for a drug dealer with the same name," said co-founder Patrick Ambron. "He couldn't even get calls back and found out that was the problem."

An April survey of 2,000 hiring managers from CareerBuilder found nearly two in five companies use social networking sites to research job candidates, and 11 percent said they planned to start.

A third of the hiring managers who said they research candidates reported finding something like a provocative photo or evi-

dence of drinking or drug use that cost the candidate a job.

"We want our students and alumni actively involved in shaping their online presence," said Johns Hopkins Career Center Director Mark Presnell.

BrandYourself works by analyzing search terms in a user's online profile to determine, for example, that a LinkedIn account might rank 25th in Google searches of the user's name. The program then suggests ways to boost that ranking. The software also provides alerts when an unidentified result appears on a user's first page or if any links rise or fall significantly in rank. □



**The Promenade Restaurant**

**Special**

**First Course**  
SEAFOOD PROMENADE  
stuffed and baked to a golden color  
**Escargot a la creme**  
creamy garlic sauce with fresh mushrooms  
GARDEN SALAD BOULANGERE  
dressed with your choice of dressing

**Second Course**  
SOUP OF THE DAY  
home made

**Third Course**  
ROAST TENDERLOIN MEDICI  
a mediterranean speciality  
CHICKEN FLORENTINE  
baked stuffed with creamed spinach  
BROILED PORK MEDALLION  
with a dijon mustard sauce and apple mousse  
BAKED STUFFED GROUPER  
glazed with seafood thermidor

**Early Brid Dinner \$22**  
Only from 5pm - 7pm

**Fourth Course**  
CHOCOLATE MOUSSE  
CHEESE CAKE  
ICE CREAM

\$ 22.00 plus Service Charge  
In combination with coupons will be a surcharge of \$4.00

**FOR RESERVATION**  **583-8899**  
L.G. Smith Blvd. 160 near the low rise Hotels







<b>NOW SERVING BREAKFAST</b> <b>BREAKFAST • LUNCH • DINNER</b>		<b>FREE DELIVERY OVER \$40</b> FOR HI AND LOW RISE HOTEL DISTRICT - INCLUDING THE BEACH!	<b>TEL 5863604</b>
<b>ALL YOU CAN EAT PANCAKES</b> <b>\$6.99</b> 	<b>2 EGGS, TOAST</b> <b>\$4.49</b> 	  <b>5 Burgers Aruba</b>	
<b>FREE COFFEE</b> <b>UNLIMITED REFILLS WITH ANY BREAKFAST ENTREE</b>			
<b>OPEN DAILY - 8:00 A.M. - 10:00 ISH</b> LOCATED BEHIND SEÑOR FROGS, ACROSS FROM THE RADISSON HOTEL Serving breakfast from 8:00 am til 12:00 noon		<b>BURGERS HANDPRESSED / DAILY FRESH CUT FRIES!</b>	

## Confidence dims as 'cliff' doubts tank Wall Street

CHRISTINA REXRODE

AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — The “fiscal cliff” took the stock market on a roller coaster Thursday. Small developments in the tense budget standoff yanked stocks back and forth throughout the day.

In the end, U.S. stocks closed lower for the fourth day in a row, sending the unwelcome message that the budget standoff is still far from solved, the economy still far from healed.

The erratic performance underscored how the “fiscal cliff” can yank the market back and forth. The term refers to automatic tax increases and government spending cuts that will kick in next week if Republicans and Democrats can't reach a budget agreement by Monday night.

Stocks opened by hopping between small gains and



**Shoppers walk past a store at a mall in Salem, N.H. U.S. consumer confidence tumbled in December, driven lower by fears of sharp tax increases and government spending cuts set to take effect next week. The Conference Board said Thursday that its consumer confidence index fell this month to 65.1, down from 71.5 in November. That's second straight decline and the lowest level since August. (AP Photo/Elise Amendola)**

losses, pulled up by news about fewer unemployment claims and down by the continuing lack of a budget deal in Washington.

Then, stocks turned deci-

sively downward at mid-morning, unnerved by twin fetters: a report that consumer confidence fell to its lowest level since August, and a warning from the Senate Majority Leader, Demo-

crat Harry Reid, that he feared the government would miss the Monday night deadline for working out a budget compromise.

A bright spot of economic news, an increase in sales of new homes, couldn't distract investors from worries about the budget impasse. Both Republicans and Democrats demanded that the other side take the initiative in compromising. The Dow Jones industrial average fell as much as 150 points, more than 1 percent.

Then, just as the Dow appeared headed toward a triple-digit loss, it whipsawed again, this time higher, after House leaders announced in the late afternoon that the chamber would meet Sunday evening to work on the budget.

At the close, stocks trimmed their losses but still

closed lower. The Dow finished down 18.28 points, or 0.14 percent, to 13,096.31. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 1.73 to 1,418.10. The Nasdaq composite index lost 4.25 to 2,985.91.

Until recently, investors were treating the “fiscal cliff” with a measure of nonchalance. Stocks rose more or less steadily from mid-November until late last week.

But now, with the “fiscal cliff” deadline just days away and no deal in sight, more investors are paying attention.

“This is a matter of a few personalities; it isn't something where you can analyze spreadsheets to figure out what's going on,” said David Kelly, chief global strategist at JPMorgan Funds. “There are very few investors on one side or the other who have wanted to make a strong bet on this one.” Many investors believe that the higher taxes and lower government spending could push the U.S. back into recession.

“This is not small potatoes,” said Hugh Johnson, chairman and chief investment officer of Hugh Johnson Advisors in Albany, New York. “We're not going to miss a recession by much in 2013 as is.”

To be sure, plenty of traders think the “fiscal cliff” is overhyped. Even if the government misses the Monday deadline, the higher taxes and lower government spending would take effect only gradually, and Congress could always repeal them. □

## US jobless aid applications fall to 5-year low

CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The average number of people seeking U.S. unemployment benefits over the past month fell to the lowest level since March 2008, a sign that the job market is healing.

The Labor Department said Thursday that weekly applications dropped 12,000 to a seasonally adjusted 350,000 in the week ended Dec. 22. The four-week average, a less volatile mea-

sure, fell to a nearly five-year low of 356,750.

Still, the Christmas holiday may have distorted the figures. A department spokesman said many state unemployment offices were closed Monday and Tuesday and could not provide exact data. That forced the government to rely on estimates. Normally, the government might estimate application data for one or two states. Last week, it had to use estimates for 19. The estimates are usually

fairly accurate, the spokesman said. Even so, the government will likely revise the figures by more than normal next week. Weekly applications are a proxy for layoffs. They have mostly fluctuated this year between 360,000 and 390,000. At the same time, employers have added an average of 151,000 jobs a month in the first 11 months of 2012. That's just enough to slowly reduce the unemployment rate.

Economists were mildly encouraged by the decline

in applications. But they emphasized that the figures are volatile around the holidays. They were also distorted until recent weeks by Superstorm Sandy. Many expect next week's jobs report to show that employers added about 150,000 jobs in December. The decline in unemployment benefit applications suggests companies are not yet slashing jobs because of concerns over the “fiscal cliff.” □



# SeaWorld files to go public with \$100 million IPO

**MICHELLE CHAPMAN**  
AP Business Reporter  
NEW YORK (AP) —

The company famous for water shows featuring killer whales, dolphins and other animals at SeaWorld said Thursday that it is planning to go public. SeaWorld Entertainment Inc. has filed for an initial public offering of stock aimed at raising \$100 million. That number is likely to change as the company's bankers gauge interest from investors.

From its origins as a Busch Gardens animal park at Anheuser-Busch's Tampa Budweiser brewery, the company has grown to span 11 theme parks housing 67,000 animals. Besides the three SeaWorld parks, the company owns two Busch Gardens parks and Sesame Place, an amusement park based on the children's TV show Sesame Street.

The company warns that its business is dependent on customers' willingness to spend on leisure and entertainment — which may be a tough proposition in

a still-weak U.S. economy. Still, SeaWorld's revenue has risen in the three years that it's been owned by private equity firm Blackstone Group LP. The company has looked for ways to stay competitive in the current market, branching out this

the IPO but keep a majority stake, SeaWorld said in a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. SeaWorld plans to use money raised in the IPO to pay down debt and make a payment to the New York-based firm.



SeaWorld Orlando's Shamu Stadium in Orlando, Fla. SeaWorld Entertainment Inc. on Thursday, Dec. 27, 2012, filed for an initial public offering of stock that could raise \$100 million.

(AP Photo/Phelan M. Ebenhack)

year with a Saturday morning television show, "Sea Rescue," on the ABC network to attract young viewers.

Blackstone is expected to sell some of its stock in

Blackstone bought SeaWorld, formerly Busch Entertainment Corp., from beer brewer Anheuser-Busch InBev in 2009 for \$2.3 billion. The Belgian company was shedding assets

to help pay for its \$52 billion takeover of St. Louis-based Anheuser-Busch in 2008.

Anheuser-Busch started Busch Gardens in Tampa in 1959. The beer company bought SeaWorld, whose park opened in San Diego in 1964, in 1989. SeaWorld is now based in the theme park mecca of Orlando, Florida, also home to Walt Disney Co.'s Walt Disney World resort and Universal Studios. More than half of the company's revenue is generated in Florida.

SeaWorld said about 24 million people attended its 11 parks during the 12 months ended Sept. 30. The company did not disclose how that figure has grown or shrank in the past few years, but says it has a "stable attendance base." In the first nine months of 2012, SeaWorld's profit jumped 73 percent to \$86.2 million from \$50 million a year earlier, as revenue rose nearly 8 percent to \$1.16 billion.

Some of the company's competitors have had a difficult climb back from the recession. □

## EU NOTES

### Spain's Bankia shares plunge

**MADRID (AP) —** Shares in Bankia, the bailed-out Spanish bank, lost almost a fifth of their value Thursday after officials with the nation's bank bailout fund said the nationalized institution was worth minus \$5.6 billion. Bankia SA's share price ended the day 19.5 percent lower at €0.55 after Spain's Fund for Orderly Bank Restructuring revealed Wednesday night the extent of the bank's negative value—essentially, more debts than assets. The figure suggests that the lender's losses on its toxic property investments from the building spree that imploded in 2008 are even worse than expected. Bankia is being bailed out by the state for \$24 billion from a rescue fund set up by the 17 EU nations that use the euro. □

### Portugal airport corp. auctioned

**LISBON, Portugal (AP) —** French airport operator Vinci will pay €3.1 billion (\$4.1 billion) to run 10 Portuguese airports for the next 50 years under Portugal's sell-off of state companies to reduce its public debt. Vinci Concessions offered more than the minimum €2.5 billion officials wanted for national airport management company ANA, beating two other European suitors and one from Argentina.

Portugal's government approved Vinci's bid Thursday. It is selling state companies under conditions of a €78 billion international bailout package. The revenue helps pay down the debt, forecast to reach almost 120 percent of gross domestic product this year. □



# New home sales jump to fastest rate in 2½ years

**CHRISTOPHER S. RUGABER**  
AP Economics Writer  
WASHINGTON (AP) —

Americans bought new homes last month at the fastest pace in more than two and a half years, further evidence of a sustained housing recovery. Sales of new homes rose 4.4 percent in November from October to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 377,000, the Commerce Department said Thursday. That's the fastest pace since April 2010, when a federal tax credit boosted sales.

New-home sales have also increased 15.3 percent over the past year, although the improvement comes from depressed levels. Sales remain below the 700,000 that economists consider healthy.

Sales in the Northeast rebounded in November from disruptions caused by Superstorm Sandy. Sales in the region increased 12.5

percent last month. That followed a decline of 27.3 percent in October.

The housing market has steadily improved this year, helped by stable job gains and record-low mort-

and immediately after the Great Recession.

Another big reason for the rebound: The excess supply of homes that were built during the housing boom has finally thinned out. Only



A woman walks towards a home for sale during a viewing for brokers in Leucadia, Calif. Americans bought new homes in November 2012 at the fastest pace in more than two and a half years, further evidence of a sustained housing recovery.

(AP Photo/Gregory Bull)

gage rates. More people are looking to buy or rent a home after living with relatives or friends during

149,000 new homes were for sale at the end of last month, according to the report. That's just above

a record low of 143,000 in August. The increase in the supply of new homes for sale was the first sustained rise in five years. Economists said that reflects growing optimism among builders that the housing recovery will endure. Builder confidence rose this month to its highest level in 6½ years, according to the National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo survey released last week.

The pace of home construction is nearly 22 percent higher than a year earlier, according to government data. Builders are on track this year to start work on the most homes in four years. There have been other signs of a recovery in the housing market.

Home prices are also increasing. The Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller national home price index released Wednesday increased 4.3 percent in October compared with a year ago. □



Mutts



6 Chix



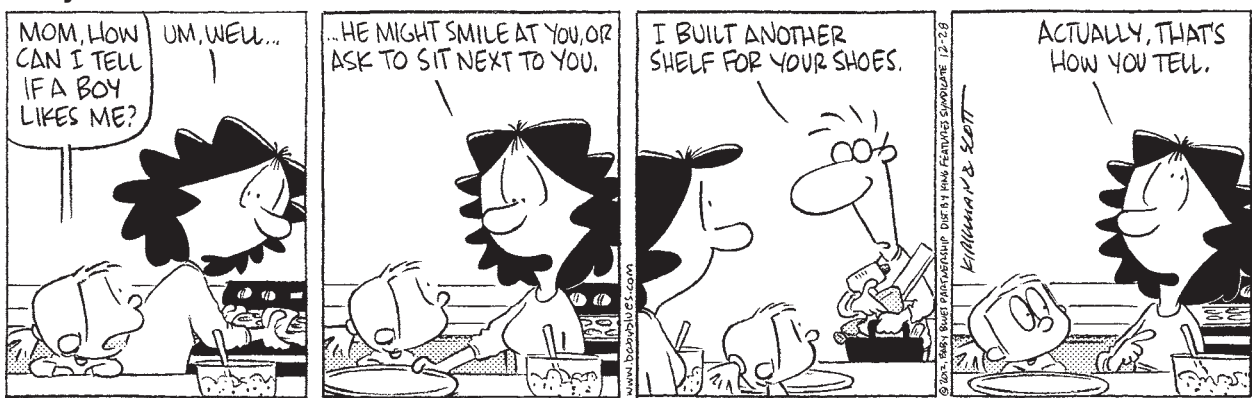
Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			9	1	7			8
		3			8			
	6							
5							8	2
6				5				1
4	7							9
							1	
			7			5		
8			6	3	2			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

12/28

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

6	4	9	7	5	8	3	1	2
2	7	5	1	3	9	6	4	8
8	1	3	6	4	2	9	7	5
4	9	7	5	8	6	1	2	3
3	2	8	9	1	4	5	6	7
5	6	1	3	2	7	4	8	9
9	8	2	4	6	3	7	5	1
7	5	6	8	9	1	2	3	4
1	3	4	2	7	5	8	9	6

ACROSS

- 1 Actor Robert
- 5 Ensnares
- 10 Cleansing bar
- 14 Continent east of Russia
- 15 Summarize
- 16 "Les Miserables" author Victor
- 17 Saved
- 18 Banishes
- 20 Asner & Koch
- 21 Actors' signals
- 22 Got up
- 23 Burst forth
- 25 BPOE member
- 26 Bawl out
- 28 Distorts
- 31 Lisa Marie's dad
- 32 Short
- 34 Groove
- 36 Enthusiastic
- 37 Advertising circular
- 38 Passenger fee
- 39 Last calendar page: abbr.
- 40 Courted
- 41 Spectrum
- 42 Whispered confidence
- 44 Throws
- 45 Belonging to that fellow
- 46 Page or LaBelle
- 47 Desert refuge
- 50 Copenhagen
- 51 Actor \_\_\_ Hanks
- 54 Shining
- 57 Oliver Twist's request
- 58 Clark Kent and Lois \_\_\_
- 59 Judge's mallet
- 60 Zone
- 61 School subj.
- 62 Waterbirds
- 63 Abnormal sac

DOWN

- 1 Angel food \_\_\_
- 2 Secondhand
- 3 Empty talk
- 4 Mrs. Nixon
- 5 Group of actors

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14				15					16			
17				18					19			
20				21					22			
23				24					25			
26				27					28			
29				30					31			
32				33					34			
35				36					37			
38				39					40			
41				42					43			
44				45					46			
47				48					49			
50				51					52			
53				54					55			
56				57					58			
59				60					61			
62				63					64			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

12/28/12

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

CAGE	SHOWS	POST
EDEN	PADRE	AWAY
DANG	INDIA	REIN
EMERGES	TREADLE	
OIL	JESTS	
ANGST	CUR	HOTEL
TEES	CAP	RELIVE
IVE	CALIBER	BEG
LESSER	TED	MINI
TREAD	DEE	FEAST
TAMER	MEA	
REWIRE	S	HADDOCK
EVER	AIDES	OGLE
NILE	TREAT	WRAP
OLDS	SENDS	SEPT

(c) 2012 Tribune Media Services, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

- 38 Quick
- 40 Watch's place
- 41 Learn by \_\_\_; memorize
- 43 Sculptor's tool
- 44 Become ensnared
- 46 Glass squares
- 47 Make eyes at
- 48 Actor Rachins
- 49 Warble
- 50 Headfirst plunge
- 52 Raw minerals
- 53 Ham or beef
- 55 Oval edible
- 56 "No," to a Scot
- 57 Apple computer



# Good deals, bad economy, mean people shopping for themselves

**Arielle Kass**

© 2012 Cox Newspapers

**ATLANTA** -- Erica Garmon hadn't planned on shopping for herself. Then she got her hands on a coupon for 40 percent off at the Coach store at North Georgia Premium Outlets. Before she knew it, she was walking out with a \$100 bag.

"I've been a good girl this year," she resident said. "I deserved it."

She's not alone in that sentiment. The National Retail Federation says six out of



10 people who go out shopping this holiday season will end up buying something for themselves as well, spending an average of \$140. And if they're young, 25 to 34, they'll spend even more, about \$175.

The good deals, and a recession that kept people from shopping as frequently, means more consumers are seeing items they'd like for themselves while out searching for gifts

Prior to the recession, "the consumer bought whatever they wanted whenever they wanted it," said Marshal Cohen, chief retail analyst for NPD Group. "Self-gifting is a really good indication of how the consumer has changed."

Shoppers used to be embarrassed about buying for themselves while they were shopping for others, Cohen said, but much like the trend toward buying gift cards, it's become increasingly acceptable. Self-gifting has risen because people with gift cards are spending on themselves and because there is still pent-up demand from shoppers who haven't returned to stores at the same rate they once shopped.

Garmon said she has been tempted to buy herself presents in nearly every store she entered. By Christmas, she expected to spend more than \$300 on herself. Her budget for 10 other people was \$2,000.

"The consumer has discovered that one of the best times to buy something for yourself is the holiday season," said Daniel Butler, the NRF's vice president of retail operations. "There's a lot on sale. You naturally go out and find things."

Amanda Williamson found a pair of socks and a cute shirt on sale at New York & Company, and the price was right -- the Atlanta resident spent \$7 on both. But, she said, it's unusual for her to buy things for herself when she's shopping for others.

Audria Jones, though, intended to treat herself. She was looking for gifts at Perimeter Mall, but knew she'd likely buy some items she needed, as well. The Atlanta resident estimated she'd spend \$400 on others and \$300 on herself.

Her friend, Shelby Washington, was finding shoes, a skirt and a scarf to bring home. None of the purchases was planned. □

## Classifieds

### LA CABANA

Fixed week owners, protect your interest. Join FWOA  
[fwoa1@verizon.net](mailto:fwoa1@verizon.net)

113141

### FOR RENT

Do you want to stay more day's in Aruba?  
we have apts & houses for rent by days, week & months. Start \$60 p/day.  
Call: 733-6681 / 745-3510  
E-mail: [marita.landa@gmail.com](mailto:marita.landa@gmail.com)

197999

### FOR SALE

**Marriott Christmas wk**  
beautiful 2 bedr, 2 bath  
washer/dryer in kitchen, ocean view sleeps 8 \$45.000  
contact 586-4231 or  
[xtmsriberg@hotmail.com](mailto:xtmsriberg@hotmail.com)

197975

### SALON & SPA/ SPECIAL

Manicure y Pedicure \$30  
Massage (50 min) \$45  
Facial (basic) \$45  
Possibility to pick up!!!  
Bella Vista salon & spa / Seroe Patrishi 43-A  
Call now!! 583-7338 / 737-1408

197999

### FOR SALE

Condo in Gold Coast  
Everything's included in this 2 Br 2 1/2 bath unit check it out now at  
[www.arubarental.info](http://www.arubarental.info)  
or call 562-0735 free pick up

198153

### FOR RENT

Ocean front  
Marriott Surf Club  
2 bedroom suite  
Dec. 23-30 2013 \$6500  
Local # 6901001  
Call: Us (206)714-5029  
E-mail:  
[magiewolf@gmail.com](mailto:magiewolf@gmail.com)

### FOR SALE

wk 1 -137 \$10.500  
wk 16 two weeks to Rent \$1000 a week  
Call 1-781-760-1048 (cell)  
1-781-324-8130  
Joe or mary Summers

114364

### FOR SALE

**Paradise Beach Villas**  
wk 52 - 1br \$8.500 OBO  
wk 1- 2br \$10.000 OBO  
**Tropicana Resort**  
wk 51 - 1b \$2.500 OBO  
Pls call 732-2788  
[sales@arubadirectdeals.com](mailto:sales@arubadirectdeals.com)

198167



**DOCTOR ON DUTY ORANJESTAD**  
28 December  
Dr. Dassen

**Pharmacy on duty ORANJESTAD:**  
**Botica di Serv. Maria Tel: 585-8145**  
**SAN NICOLAAS:**  
**Botica Aloe Tel: 584-4606**

**Police**  
Police 581-1100  
Oranjestad 582-4000  
Noord 587-0009  
Sta. Cruz 585-4710  
Savaneta 584-7000  
San Nicolas 584-5000

**Emergency Numbers**  
Emergency 911  
Police 100  
Fire Dept. 115  
Fire Dept. II 582-1108  
Police Tipline 11141  
Hospital 527-4000

**Oranjestad**  
Ambulance 582-1234  
Police 582-4000

**San Nicolas**  
Ambulance 584-5050  
Police Station 584-5000  
BGD San Nicolas 584-1606  
Valero Security 584-1720

**Services**  
Information 118  
Setar 582-5151  
Taxi 582-2116  
Taxi- Tas 587-5900  
Professional Taxi 588-0035  
Taxi D.T.S. 587-2300  
Service Aruba 583-3232

**CRUISE SHIP**

**28 Grand Princess**  
Aruba Airport Tel:524-2424  
American Airlines Tel: 582-2700  
Avianca Tel: 588-0059  
Dutch Antilles Tel: 588-1900  
Insel Air Tel: 588-9314  
Jet Blue Tel: 588-2244  
Spirit Airlines Tel: 582-7117  
Suriname Airways Tel: 582-7896  
Tiara Air Tel: 588-4272  
Venezolana Tel: 583-7674

**Foundation Fellowship Clinic**  
Tel: 584-6440  
Alcoholism & Drug Addiction, Anonymity guaranteed  
**Foundation Anti-Droga Aruba**  
(FADA) Tel: 583-2999  
**Foundation Respetami**  
Tel: 582-4433  
**Diabetic Foundation Arubano**  
Tel: 583-3808  
**Narcotics Anonymous**  
Tel: 583-8989  
**Foundation Amor pa Prohimo**  
Tel: 583-3354 / 586-6976  
**Women in Difficulties Foundation**  
Tel: 583-5400

## Caribbean Palm Village Resort

**Sale Weeks 51 and 52**

**Good Selection Still Available**

**Come Visit or Contact**

[Sales.Cpv@hotmail.com](mailto:Sales.Cpv@hotmail.com)

**USA 978 530 6077**

**Aruba 297 592 0500, or 732 5392**

### FOR RENT

**Marriott Ocean Club**  
2 bedroom 2 bath, ocean view christmas wk 2013  
December 21-28 st  
Contact: ABC Rm 145 until 1/07/13 USA 516-625-1996  
[bleinem@aol.com](mailto:bleinem@aol.com) \$5.900

198164

### VACATION SPECIAL

last minute  
New Year Aruba Beach Club  
wk 52 Dec. 29-Jan 5 \$700 4p  
Tel. 583-4403 / 560-3297

### FOR RENT

**Paradise Beach Villas**  
Dec. 29 Jan 5 Studio \$700  
Jan 05 Jan 12 1 br \$1.000  
Jan 06 - Jan 13 2 br \$1.100  
Pls call. 732-2788  
E-mail:  
[rental@arubadirectdeals.com](mailto:rental@arubadirectdeals.com)

198167A

Tel: 582-0697 / 583-7484  
Schotland str. 70

**Extend your Stay at**  
**Quality Apartments**

\*Studio & Loft Apts. \*Fully Furnished  
\*Kitchen / Airco / Cable TV \*Swimming Pool  
Less than 1 mile from Eagle Beach & 4 large supermarkets.  
Feel free to contact or visit us.  
Mon - Fri: 8am-7pm. Sat & Sun: 9am-5pm.





**JEFFREY COLLINS**

Sometimes humans feel a need to prove they are the dominant species on this planet by taking a two-ton metal vehicle and squishing a defenseless creature



**Associated Press**

Herzog asked a class of about 110 students getting ready to take a final whether they had intentionally run over a turtle, or been in a car with someone who did. Thirty-four

The first time Weaver went out to collect data on turtles, he chose a spot down the road from a big apartment complex that caters to students. He counted 267 vehicles that passed

It takes a turtle seven or eight years to become mature enough to reproduce, and in that time, it might

My wife will stop and help turtles no matter how much traffic there is on the road. I can't understand the idea why you would swerve to hit something so helpless as a turtle."□





**J.H. YEE'S**  
珍味 Asian Bistro

LUNCH SPECIALS starting at \$14,95

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL \$14,95

HOUSE SPECIAL \$16,95

SUSHI BAR (lunch and dinner)

**NOW SERVING TEPPANYAKI (hibachi cooking table)**

**OPEN**  
Lunch 12 pm-3pm  
Dinner 6 pm-11 pm  
**EVERY DAY**



Located at South Beach Centre | Palm Beach 55, Aruba | Tel: 586 3888 | Fax: 586 8883



In this Tuesday, March, 27, 2012, file photo, British actress Kate Winslet arrives at the World Premiere of Titanic 3D at the Royal Albert Hall in London.  
Associated Press

## It's husband No. 3 for actress Kate Winslet

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Kate Winslet has married again.

The Oscar-winning actress wed Ned Rocknroll in New York earlier this month. The private ceremony was attended by Winslet's two children as well as a few friends and family members, her representative said Thursday.

It is the third marriage for the 37-year-old Winslet. She was previously married to film directors Jim Threapleton and Sam Mendes. The 34-year-old Rocknroll, who was born Abel Smith, is a nephew of billionaire Virgin Group founder Richard Branson. The couple had been engaged since last summer. Winslet won a Best Actress Oscar for her performance in the 2008 film "The Reader."

This Feb. 12, 2012 file photo shows Jessie Baylin with her husband Nathan Followill of the band Kings of Leon at the 54th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles. □

## KOL's Nathan Followill, Jessie Baylin welcome baby

**CHRIS TALBOTT**  
AP Music Writer

**NASHVILLE, Tennessee (AP)** — The Kings of Leon family has just gotten bigger.

Drummer Nathan Followill and his wife, singer-songwriter Jessie Baylin, welcomed a baby girl on Wednesday. It's the first baby for the couple and the third for the Followill family band. Nathan Followill's brother Caleb and cousin Matthew also have children. □

## Chris Matthews raises profile during campaign

**DAVID BAUDER**  
AP Television Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — To his boss, Chris Matthews has become a statesman. His critics probably have other words.

The veteran MSNBC host raised his profile as much as any member of the television commentariat during the presidential campaign. His 5 p.m. "Hardball" show has seen viewership jump by 24 percent this year from 2011, 17 percent for the rerun two hours later. Matthews symbolized MSNBC's growing comfort in being a liberal alternative to Fox News Channel. He engaged in an uncomfortable on-air confrontation with Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus, seemed nearly apoplectic when President Barack Obama flubbed his first debate and had to apologize for appearing grateful that Hurricane Sandy might have helped Obama's re-election effort.

With Keith Olbermann out of sight, Matthews essentially replaced him as the commentator that most annoyed conservative viewers. "During the run-up to the Iraq War, he just became really, really partisan and became even more so when MSNBC decided to become the anti-Fox," said Geoff Dickens, who used



This May 5, 2009 file photo shows Chris Matthews arriving at the Time 100 Gala, in New York.  
Associated Press

to watch Matthews as a fan and now monitors him regularly as part of his job with the conservative Media Research Center.

Matthews is not afraid to say what he thinks. He's a former newspaper columnist and one-time aide to a 1980s era Democrat, House Speaker Tip O'Neill. He seriously considered running for the U.S. Senate in Pennsylvania a few years back, where he probably would have been asked repeatedly to explain why he voted for George W. Bush in 2000.

He's a motor-mouth infused with a love of politics that borders on the pathological.

"He's as good as he's ever been," said Phil Griffin, MSNBC president. "He's at a place in his life where he's really comfortable in his

own skin. He's a statesman. He has so much knowledge and I think he understands it better. He's always been great, but I really think he's been at the peak of his game."

Iraq turned Matthews against Bush. He said war and peace, and civil rights, are the issues that drive him most and explain his enthusiasm for Obama.

Matthews seemed personally offended by efforts in individual states to tighten voter registration and identification laws.

Republicans called it an attempt to curb voter fraud; Matthews said it was to suppress voters friendly to Obama. He said Republicans would use welfare and other issues to subtly appeal to white voters still uncomfortable with a black president. □



## Haitian president to sing with Julio Iglesias



President Michel Martelly talks to reporters during a news conference, Monday, Dec. 10, 2012, in North Miami Beach, Fla.  
Associated Press

**SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP)** — Haiti's singer-turned-president is returning to the international stage.

President Michel Martelly will sing two songs with Spanish singer Julio Iglesias at a benefit concert Friday in the Dominican Republic. Martelly has made several impromptu performances in Haiti since he was elected in May 2011. But the show in Casa de Campo will be his first performance outside Haiti for the artist known as "Sweet Micky."

Concert organizer George Nader says proceeds will go to the Pink and White Foundation, a charity run by Martelly and his wife, Sophia.

Among those expected to attend are Henry Kissinger and designers Donna Karan and Oscar de la Renta.

Martelly was known for often bawdy performances before he was elected president of a country struggling to recover from a January 2010 earthquake. □



In this Nov. 8, 2011 file photo taken in New York City Fontella Bass performs during the Pioneer Awards at New York's Apollo Theatre.

Associated Press

## 'Rescue Me' singer Fontella Bass dies

Associated Press

**ST. LOUIS (AP)** — Fontella Bass, a U.S. soul singer who hit the top of the R&B charts with "Rescue Me" in 1965, has died. She was 72.

Bass died Wednesday night at a St. Louis hospice of complications from a heart attack suffered three weeks ago, her daughter, Neuka Mitchell, said. Bass had also suffered a series of strokes over the past seven years.

"She was an outgoing person," Mitchell said. "She had a very big personality. Any room she entered she just lit the room up, whether she was on stage or just going out to eat."

"Rescue Me" has been covered by many top artists, including Linda Ronstadt, Cher, Melissa Manchester and Pat Benatar. Franklin eventually sang a form of it, as "Deliver Me" in a Pizza Hut TV ad in 1991. Bass was born into a family with deep musical roots. Her mother was gospel singer Martha Bass, one of the Clara Ward Singers. Her younger brother, David Peaston, had a string of R&B hits in the 1980s and 1990s. Peaston died in February at age 54.

Bass began performing at a young age, singing in her church's choir at age 6. Her interest turned to R&B when she was a teenager. She eventually auditioned for Chess Records and landed a recording contract. Her duet with Bobby McClure, "Don't Mess Up a Good Thing," reached No. 5 on the R&B charts and No. 33 on the Billboard Top 100 in 1965.

She co-wrote and later that year recorded "Rescue Me," reaching No. 1 on the R&B charts and No. 4 on the Billboard pop singles chart. Bass's powerful voice bore a striking resemblance to that of Aretha Franklin, who is often misidentified as the singer of that chart-topping hit.

Bass haggled over royalty rights to "Rescue Me" for years before reaching a settlement in the late 1980s, Mitchell said.

Bass lived briefly in Europe before returning to St. Louis in the early 1970s. She recorded occasionally, including a 1995 gospel album, "No Ways Tired," that earned a Grammy nomination.

She is survived by four children. □

## After 50 years, Marvel's Peter Parker in peril



This undated photo provided by Marvel Comics shows the cover of the 700th and final issue in the comic book series "The Amazing Spider-Man," issued Wednesday, Dec. 26, 2012.

Associated Press

MATT MOORE

Associated Press

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — After 50 years of spinning webs and catching a who's who of criminals, Peter Parker is out of the hero game. But Spider-Man is still slinging from building to building — reborn, refreshed and revived with a new sense of the maxim that Ben Parker taught his then-fledgling nephew: "With great power comes great responsibility."

Dan Slott, who's been writing Spider-Man adventures for the better part of the last 100 issues for Marvel Entertainment, said the culmination of the story is a new, dramatically different direction for the Steve Ditko and Stan Lee-created hero.

"This is an epic turn," Slott said. "I've been writing Spider-Man for 70-plus issues. Every now and then, you

have to shake it up."

In the pages of issue 700, out Wednesday, it's not just shaken up, it's kicked sky high and cracked wide open.

Parker's mind is trapped in the withered, decaying dying body of his nemesis, Doctor Octopus aka Otto Octavius. Where's Doc Ock? Inside Parker's super-powered shell, learning what life is like for the brilliant researcher who happens to count the Avengers and Fantastic Four as friends and family.

The two clash mightily in the pages of issue 700, illustrated by Humberto Ramos and Victor Olazaba. But it's Octavius who wins out and Parker is, at least for now, gone for good, but not before one more act of heroism. Editor Stephen Wacker said that while Parker is gone, his life casts a long shadow. □



# A Mom's Love



**JOE NOCERA**

© 2012 New York Times

It's Christmas. The "fiscal cliff" is still approaching, guns remain a huge problem and the political paralysis in Washington isn't abating.

But, in the spirit of the season, let's put aside our national troubles for this one day and talk about something a little more inspiring.

Let's talk about what a mother's love can accomplish.

The mother I have in mind is Laurie Cameron, a 58-year-old dynamo who lives in Putnam County, N.Y. When I first met her, about 14 years ago, she was the director of marketing at Fortune – and one of the warmest, most vibrant people I have ever known. We became friends in the way people often become friends in the office. She knew a little about my life and I knew a little about hers, but when the workday ended we went our separate ways.

I knew, for instance, that her son Luke had issues. But I never knew the details, because she didn't talk about them. Luke, who is now 21, and his twin brother, Jason, had been born three months prematurely, each weighing less than 2 pounds. Luke is the one who survived. When Luke was 2 years old, Laurie realized he had severe developmental problems. Although he understands everything, he doesn't speak; to this day, the only word he has ever uttered is "mom."

Nor can he tolerate loud noises or chaos – screaming babies, for instance, can cause him to become extremely agitated. When I met Luke recently, I assumed he was autistic.

His diagnosis, however, is much vaguer: "developmentally delayed," a catchphrase for problems doctors can't pinpoint. Laurie freely admits that she spent a long time "floundering" trying to find the right kind of help for Luke.

"There aren't any guides to help you if you have a special-needs child," Laurie says. She put him in schools that were supposed to integrate him with other children, but he was kept apart. Teachers would call while she was in meetings to tell her that Luke was having a meltdown. Other students ostracized him. Luke became depressed.

Laurie, meanwhile, had become deeply frustrated. "He's a smart kid," she says.

"He is computer literate. He loves to cook. He is fascinated by dolphins. He has lots of interests." But when Luke was introduced to people, they often treated him as if he were mentally slow.

The larger world found it easy to marginalize him.

When Luke was 11, Laurie found the Westchester Exceptional Children's School in North Salem, N.Y., where he was treated the same way we all want to be treated: with respect and dignity. He found friends there – and support.

"He can feel free there," Laurie says. "There are very few places where he can feel free."

Laurie became involved enough to join the board, eventually becoming its president, a position she now holds. When she and I visited Luke there recently, she not only knew all the teachers, but all the students as well. A few of them gave her a hug.

By now, Laurie is all-in as a mother dedicated to helping not only Luke but other special-needs children – and their parents. She left Fortune five years ago, and, since then, she has bubbled over with ideas. One of them is a series of children's books about "the Lambdoodle cafe" featuring a boy like Luke.

She made the rounds of publishers, who told her that the niche was too narrow. In the next breath, she said, they would tell her about special-needs children in their families or neighborhood.

"There are 6.5 million Americans who have been diagnosed with special needs," she says. "And that doesn't count all the other people who are affected: parents, siblings, extended family. We are huge, and yet we are invisible."

In the long term, that is what she wants to change.

In the short term, she has a more pressing problem. Luke will graduate in June.

He will be looking, as we all do, for a life with friends, with interesting things to do, and with meaning.

But most programs for people with special needs either require skills he'll never have or are mind-numbingly boring.

Laurie is planning to change that. She has started a program called "Cultivating Dreams," which will offer people with special needs a community of their own – a little like assisted living for the elderly – where they can live freely, but also work at a bakery, or in a garden, or at any number of other jobs that suit this particular group of people. She has joined with a larger organization, Careers for People With Disabilities, which will soon offer Cultivating Dreams as one of its programs.

"All I'm trying to do is make sure my kid has a place in the world," she says. Mountains are moved from such dreams. □



# From Apocalypse To Dystopia



**MAUREEN DOWD**

© 2012 New York Times

WASHINGTON – We're a little overwrought now.

The NRA understands that. It's as patient with us as a husband with a tremulous pregnant wife prone to crying jags.

This is just a passing meltdown. We'll get ourselves back under control soon and things will return to normal.

For decades, when the public has grown more sympathetic to gun control after an attempted assassination or a spike in gun murders or a harrowing school shooting, Wayne LaPierre and his fellow NRA officials have hunkered down to wait for the "emotional period" or "hysteria," as they call it, to pass.

They rule in the back rooms on Capitol Hill and rein in panicked senators and congressmen who fret that they should support some measly legislation to pretend they are not pawns of the gun lobby.

They defend anyone owning anything with a trigger, reiterating that military-style semi-automatics are just uglier hunting guns.

While there were more heart-breaking funerals in Newtown, Conn., with long hearses carrying small bodies, LaPierre stepped to the microphone in Washington on Friday to present the latest variation of his Orwellian creed: Guns don't kill people. Media kill people.

"Rather than face their own moral failings," he said in high dudgeon, "the media demon-

ize gun owners, amplify their cries for more laws, and fill the national media with misinformation and dishonest thinking that only delay meaningful action, and all but guarantee that the next atrocity is only a news cycle away."

So it's our fault.

LaPierre, who literally trembles when the omnipotent gun lobby is under siege, went ballistic painting a threatening picture of the dystopia that awaits if we don't protect our schools from guns by putting guns in schools.

"The truth is that our society is populated by an unknown number of genuine monsters," he said. "People that are so deranged, so evil, so possessed by voices and driven by demons that no sane person can ever possibly comprehend them. They walk among us every single day, and does anybody really believe that the next Adam Lanza isn't planning his attack on a school he's already identified at this very moment?"

How many more copycat killers, he asked ominously, are waiting in the wings for their moment of fame?

On the day that 6-year-old Olivia Engel, who was going to play an angel in her church's Nativity play, was buried, LaPierre heinously cloaked his refusal to consider any remedies to gun violence – not even better background checks – as tender concern for the 20 "little kids" shot in cold blood.

He kicked around the old whipping boy, violent video games, even though plenty of his 4 million members no doubt play violent video games. And he repeated his old saw: "The only thing that stops a bad guy with a gun is a good guy with a gun." Guns don't kill people. Guns save people.

The press conference, where the press was not allowed to ask questions, played like an insane parody: a tightly wound lobbyist who earns a million or so a year by refusing to make the slightest concession on gun safety, despite repeated slaughters by deranged shooters with jaw-droppingly easy access to firearms.

LaPierre makes Charlton Heston look like Michael Moore. The NRA vice president, who once called federal agents "jackbooted government thugs," insists the solution to gun violence is putting police officers, or "armed good guys," in every one of the nation's 98,817 K-12 schools.

His logic is spurious. Hunters can have their guns without leaving Americans so vulnerable to being hunted by demented souls with assault rifles that can fire 45 rounds per minute.

And consider that in 1999 an armed sheriff's deputy policing Columbine High School exchanged fire with the shooters, and still they killed 12 other students and a teacher. Mayor Michael Bloomberg accused LaPierre of "a shameful evasion."

It's hard to believe that the NRA needed to go dark for a week after the Newtown shootings to cook up such a chuckleheaded arms race. And LaPierre made a worse case against himself than the media ever could. It's shocking that the NRA can't even fake it better.

It didn't try to mask its obdurate stance by putting forth a less harsh official – a woman who's a mother and a hunter, for instance. Maybe it could have prompted a serious discussion about armed guards at schools if it had a less crazed presentation and less of an absolute vision that "guns are cool," as David Keene, its president, says.

The 63-year-old LaPierre and the 67-year-old Keene, a cantankerous former Bob Dole adviser whose son went to prison for shooting at another driver in a road-rage fit, seemed as out-of-touch as Mitt Romney's campaign and the rest of the white, macho Republican Party.

President Barack Obama, who should have been alarmed that his re-election inspired a boom in gun sales, seems daunted at the prospect of taking on gun lovers, having handed the matter off to Joe Biden to study.

The president seems to be setting the table for defeat. If only he had the visceral outrage of a Bloomberg. Who knows what could happen? □



# Eat, drink, be nice: manners taught at the table

**MATT RICHTEL**

© 2012 New York Times

**SAN FRANCISCO** – It's dinnertime, and 6-year-old Joaquin Hurtado is staying in his seat. He hasn't stood up, run around the table or wrestled with his little brother. Good thing. It wouldn't take much unruly behavior to shatter the dishware or the mood in this upscale restaurant.

"This is a place where you come to eat," the boy says softly, explaining nice manners. "It's not a place to play."

The place is Chenery Park, a restaurant with low lights, cloth napkins, \$24 grilled salmon and "family night" every Tuesday. Children are welcome, with a catch: They are expected to behave – and to watch their manners, or learn them. Think upscale dining with training wheels.

Chenery Park has many allies in the fight to teach manners to a new generation of children. Around the country, there are classes taught by self-appointed etiquette counselors – Emily Posts for a new age – delivering a more decentralized and less formal approach to teaching manners than in years past. A few restaurants, like Chenery Park, and high-end hotels set aside space and time for families.

These etiquette experts say that new approaches are needed because parents no longer have the stomach, time or know-how to play bad cop and teach manners. Dinnertime has become a free-for-all in many households, with packed family schedules, the television on in the background and a modern-day belief of many parents that they should simply let children be children.

Some of these manners-minders acknowledge that they can sound like curmudgeons, just another generation of older folks mourning the lost habits of more refined times. But they also say that parents welcome their efforts as a way of outsourcing the hard work of teaching youngsters to follow rules.

During a recent family night at Chenery Park, Joseph Kowal, an owner, roamed among the regulars and newcomers, saying hello and occasionally playing parental ally. He's got a twinkle in his eye but a steely commitment to having children – even if they're not etiquette role

home?

Etiquette teachers, other parents and people who spend time thinking about how and why we mind our manners have some interesting ideas about new strategies.

"These days, you have to teach kids about return on investment," said

tion at its finest," she said.

Then she starts in with the knives and forks, and the proper way to address an adult or a waiter. On the last day of class, they attend a three-course meal at an upscale restaurant. (Among her lessons: she slams a clunky landline phone on the table and

ners at home challenging, said Faye de Muyschondt, the founder of Social-skiz, which teaches workshops in New York City on etiquette and social skills. Modern children seem to want no part of the conversation, she said.

"Say the words 'manners' or 'etiquette' to kids these days, and they run the other direction," she said. She prefers teaching the children that they are "building the brand called 'you.'"

"People don't want to eat with someone whose plate looks like a science project," she tells the children in her workshops. "If you want to be invited back on a play date," she explains, be polite.

She thinks that one key aspect of her workshops, which take place in schools or with Brownie troops, is that they don't happen in the home or at the dinner table. "The casual nature of the home makes it difficult," she said, adding that most children she talks to say that their families have the television on during dinner.

Indeed, she and other experts talked repeatedly about setting, and how it affects manners and behavior.

It turns out that this concept is connected to science from a group of seemingly unrelated researchers: criminologists. They look at what is happening at a place like Chenery Park through a very different lens called ecological psychology, or its subset, broken-windows theory. It suggests that when an environment is dilapidated, it gives permission to people to misbehave. When the proverbial windows are not broken, neither is the behavior, or so the theory goes. "A fancy restaurant gives off so many cues that this is a place for refined behavior," said Ralph B. Taylor, a professor of criminal justice at Temple University who studies how environments influence behavior. And he and other people in the field say that the environment changes not just the youngsters. □



**Robin Wells, of Etiquette Manor, goes over the ins and outs of napkin use in Coral Gables, Fla. Around the country, there are classes taught by self-appointed etiquette counselors, who say that new approaches are needed because parents no longer have the stomach, time or know-how to play bad cop and teach manners.**

(Moris Moreno/The New York Times)

models – at least sit politely and not scream or throw food.

"Some parents will say, 'Uncle Joe's going to come up here, and he's going to be cross with you,'" Kowal said. "They use that to their advantage." He recalled one child who wouldn't settle down, and he threatened to tape the child's mouth. The child told him to go ahead and try.

"I went to my office, got some blue painter's tape, came back and ripped a piece off," he said. The kid piped down. "The parents looked at me like, 'We're going to try that at home.'" All of which raises some intriguing questions: Is it Joe who brings out the best in his young patrons? Or something else? And what are the best strategies for training children to be polite, to pay attention to the world around them, whether they are in dim lighting with fragile dishware or at

Robin Wells, the founder of Etiquette Manor in Coral Gables, Fla., which holds classes on etiquette for adults and children. When it comes to children, she said, long gone are the days when you could tell them that they have to behave a certain way "just because."

So, even as she imparts lessons about using forks and the importance of looking the waiter in the eye, she does so by framing the lessons in a constructively self-ish way for the children. She often exhorts her young students: be polite to your mother because she'll be happier, and if she's happier, you're happier.

On the first day of her five one-hour sessions, which cost \$285, she tells the children to go home and do one unexpectedly kind thing so that they can see how wide-eyed and impressed their parents will be. "It's almost manipula-

asks children if that seems OK. No, she responds, so don't put your cellphone on the table either.)

Around the country, hundreds of entrepreneurs teach versions of etiquette and manners classes, said Elena Neitlich, the founder of Moms On Edge, a company, with offices in Osprey, Fla., that offers online certification for manners teachers through a course called Etiquette Moms, at prices ranging from \$250 to \$1,250.

She believes that teaching manners to children has grown more challenging, and necessary, in part because of technology.

"Kids have stopped making eye contact at one another," Neitlich said. "They bring their technology to the table. She added that it is true of parents, too: "Everyone is in a hurry. Things are clipped, clipped, clipped."

It all makes teaching man-